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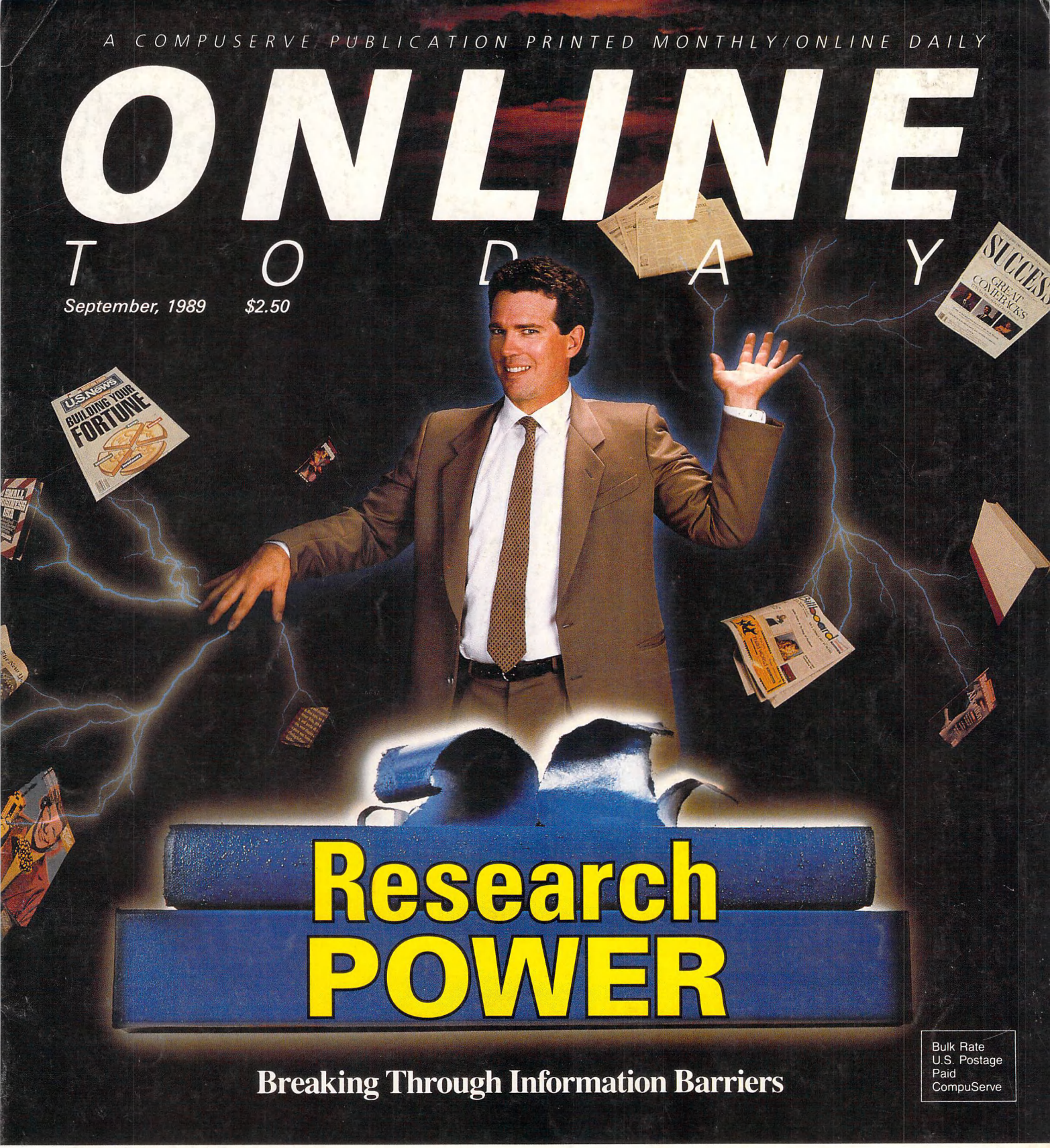


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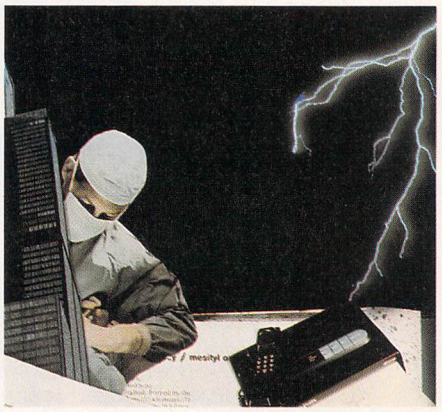

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# LETTERS

### CD-ROM Law Libraries

The article "CD-ROM Law Libraries" (May issue, page 6) caught my attention. Noel Adler, forum administrator of the Legal Forum, was quoted as saying "virtually all current CD-ROM law libraries are marketed by small start-up companies, as major legal publishers are viewing the field with a combination of skepticism and fright."

At Matthew Bender & Co., a major legal publisher in New York City, we have begun to introduce selected publications on CD-ROM. While the only library currently available contains a variety of books for California practitioners, a tax library (including the company's recently released Federal Tax Service) will be available shortly. Several other libraries are scheduled for release later in the year.

Pamela Lucia
Matthew Bender & Co. Inc.
New York, N.Y.

### OS/2 Alternatives

After reading "OS/2 Alternatives Attract Attention" (May issue, page 7), I would like to clarify Quantum Software Systems' stand on OS/2.

Our company develops and manufactures QNX, a multi-user, multi-tasking, real-time, networked operating system for the IBM PC, PC-AT, PS/2 and compatibles. QNX provides true distributed processing and transparent sharing of all resources on the network (CPUs, disks, printers, modems). RUNDOS, a product developed by Quantum, provides a DOS-like environment that will allow PC/DOS and MS/DOS applications to run as a single task under QNX.

However, the QNX operating system was never intended to be a multi-user, multi-tasking DOS solution. Instead, QNX is a UNIX-like proprietary operating system. Its main strengths include real-time performance, modular design and distributed architecture. These qualities make QNX ideal for process control, online transaction processing and applications involving extreme code size requirement, excellent real-time response or completely transparent distributed computing.

Dan Dodge, President
Quantum Software Systems Ltd.
Kanata, Ont.

### Correction

In a feature profile article headlined "Phil Boyer, Vice President/Private Pilot," (May issue, page 43) Mr. Boyer was misquoted as saying, "By law, all pilots must file plans with the FAA before each trip." Such a law does not exist, and a flight plan is not a legal requirement in all cases—a fact of which Mr. Boyer is well aware. *Online Today* regrets the error.

### Talk to Us

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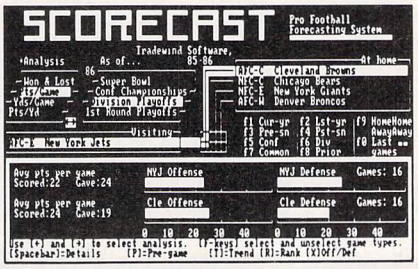


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# DEAR READER

Time is one of today's most valued commodities. Little wonder that many of us are in a quandary about how much of it to trade for an equally valuable commodity: information. Oftentimes all that's needed are a few facts or statistics, maybe an address or phone number. But in this day of "information overload," the amount of time required to glean even the most mundane bits of data can be all out of proportion to the amount of information required.

Getting information needn't always be a time-consuming process. With online research services such as those provided by CompuServe, you can cut through stacks of data and get what you need in minutes instead of hours. Whether it's general research, medical information, statistical data or financial backgrounders, you'll find a service to fit the need and organized in a fashion that will help you quickly narrow the search. Find out more about online researching in this month's cover feature beginning on page 12.

For a rundown on programs that help you organize information once it's downloaded, don't miss the article on concept-based programs beginning on page 18.

* * *

As promised, our second-in-a-series of CompuServe software product support listings appears this month, beginning on page 42. In this installment, Atari and Amiga software products and corresponding CompuServe support forums are listed in table format. In the support forums, software customers can get answers to questions, advice and tips from manufacturers and fellow users. Next month the third and final installment will feature Apple II and Macintosh.

Douglas G. Branstetter
*Editor*


**ONLINE TODAY**

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## *Online Searcher* Teaches Reference Skills

Pam Berger, a high school librarian from Westchester County, N.Y., believes that computer search skills are as crucial for today's students as the Dewey Decimal System was for their parents.

However, available resources are aimed at corporate or academic users, not to those who teach the skills. "All over the country, thousands of us were reinventing the wheel," says Berger, who decided to fill the gap with a quarterly newsletter, *Online Searcher*, which began publication in November. *Online Searcher* deals with bulletin boards, networks and information contained on CD-ROM. But beyond demystifying command structures, it teaches efficient techniques in the context of curriculum needs.

"Databases are good for primary sources," Berger says. For instance, science classes might be advised to check out a special NASA bulletin board system containing the latest information about shuttle flights or a government database that monitors earthquakes. Social studies students might be taught how to use the White House bulletin board system that publishes the president's schedule and press releases relating to his speeches.

French students can learn how to access and key in the proper commands to Minitel, the French national computer service, which now has a New York telephone access number, to download news stories in French. They also can communicate online with native French speakers. "What could be more exciting than actually using your classroom French to talk to somebody in France?" Berger asks.

You can subscribe to *Online Searcher*, which costs $34 a year, or contact Berger at 14 Hayden Rd., Scarsdale, NY 10583; 914/723-3156; fax 914/472-5014.

Students and teachers discuss these and other online resources in CompuServe's Education Forum (GO EDFORUM).

*—Lindsy Van Gelder*

## New Computer Cleaner Lowers Ozone Damage

That hole in the ozone layer above the Antarctic, which exposes an area as large as the United States, is due in part to the manufacturing process for computers.

Before assembly, many computer components and printed circuit boards must be cleaned in ozone-depleting chlorinated fluorocarbons (CFC). Now, however, a US company has developed a new family of cleaning solvents that will appreciably reduce the future damage being done to the environment.

Allied-Signal Inc. plans to replace the currently used CFC 113 with a more ecologically sound product, HCFC 141b. Joel Rodgers, vice president and general manager of Allied-Signal's Engineered Solvent Division, says the new product could be substituted for as much as 50 percent of the CFC used.

Because environmentally safer HCFC reduces ozone depletion by 90 percent, replacing half of the CFC 113 could cut overall ozone depletion by 40 percent.

A leading Japanese cleaning fluids manufacturer, Daikin Ind. Ltd. of Osaka, also has developed an alternative to CFC, according to NewsGrid. The new cleaning solution, called 5PF (penta fluoropropylalcohol), will be available for commercial production in two years.

Artists Only

If not addressed, CFC usage could become a major contributor to an increase in the incidence of skin cancer. It also is expected that increased ultraviolet light may have a devastating effect on animals and some plants.

The United States, along with 30 other countries, signed the Montreal Protocol, which imposes a time limit on production of certain CFC chemicals.

Allied-Signal's new HCFC solvents will be ready for market in 1992, after toxicological testing is completed.

CompuServe members discuss environmental issues in the Outdoor Forum (GO OUTDOORS).

*—James Moran*

## Harvard Program Helps Legal Services Clinics

Legal services clinics provide a range of services to help disadvantaged people qualify for food stamps, apply for Social Security benefits and use other similar government programs. Now, with funding from the Ford Foundation, technology experts at Harvard Law School are establishing computer programs and an electronic network to help these clinics.

Several computer-oriented products have been developed for use in legal services offices, according to Ellen Miller, director of Media and Educational Services for Harvard Law School. "Harvard's Educational Technology Group, which develops academic computing and educational software at the law school, is in charge of the project to provide legal services software and other technology to legal clinics."

Clinics often have ambitious legal training programs, but are short-staffed and under-budgeted, Miller says. The planned electronic network will ease the information shortage in many clinics by providing databases of recent legal services cases and court decisions, as well as instant access to workers in the field. In addition, the network will include an electronic mail capability.

Interested professionals can obtain information about the use of Harvard-developed technology for legal services or education by contacting Ellen Miller at 617/495-4840.

On CompuServe, law and computers are discussed in the Legal Forum (GO LAWSIG).

## Software Supports Group Dynamics

First there was hardware and software; now there is "groupware."

Conceived more than a decade ago, groupware refers to a combination of group processes—all the dynamics that make a group function—as well as the software needed to support the work of that group.

The idea behind groupware is that high technology can help a group achieve its goals, according to Peter and Trudy Johnson-Lenz, pioneers of groupware. For instance, in business, groups are created to accomplish specific tasks, such as creating a budget or devising a new marketing strategy.

The key to making groupware work well is a flexible program. However, because groupware is still in its infancy, the programs are rigid and take a kind of standard, vanilla approach that is not sensitive to the style, norms and values of the people using it.

First-generation programs, which made their debut a few years ago, are largely focused on the electronic creation of group "to do" lists, task management and group calendars. Second-generation programs, some of which are just entering the marketplace this year, provide more sophisticated guidance for the group. A groupware program that can be adjusted for different situations is the ideal programmers are aiming for.

The Johnson-Lenzes liken the concept of groupware and what it can do for a group to furniture in a room. For instance, a room that is set up with rows of chairs facing a podium will produce different results than a room where the chairs are arranged in a circle.

**Groupware means efficiency:** *Turoff*

"Either furniture arrangement can be appropriate, depending on what you want the group to accomplish," says Peter Johnson-Lenz. "But most of the available groupware products have the furniture bolted to the floor in a certain pattern." He predicts that more flexible groupware programs are still decades away.

The dynamics of a group that "meets" electronically are quite different from those of a group that meets face-to-face. And it is precisely here that groupware can help solve many problems the electronic group might face.

Murray Turoff, director of the Computerized Conferencing and Communications Center at the New Jersey Institute of Technology and creator of the EIES groupware system, says in some situations groupware can make electronic meetings more productive and efficient than in-person meetings. A good groupware program will be self-organizing, providing the group with a structure, says Turoff.

For example, a group of managers planning a budget need a program with a data structure that shows collaborative estimates. After each manager submits a budget proposal, the software would sort through the figures, highlighting only those areas that differ, allowing the managers to focus their discussion.

For more information, contact Murray Turoff, Director of Computerized Conferencing and Communications Center, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ 07102; 201/596-3399; or Peter and Trudy Johnson-Lenz, 695 Fifth St., Lake Oswego, OR 97034; 503/635-2615.

*—Cathryn Conroy*

## Multimedia Mimics Real-life Environments

Multimedia technology is showing every sign of becoming a full-blown computer industry trend. Writers are writing about it, experts are talking about it and, perhaps most significant, major corporations are investing money in it.

But what is multimedia? And how will it change our computers? Simply put, multimedia is a combination of computer, video and sound technologies. In its ultimate form, the technique accurately mimics a real-life environment—an airplane's cockpit, a nuclear power plant's control center or an oil tanker's helm. In its initial personal computer version, it will enable microcomputers to generate a wide range of breathtakingly realistic, interactive programs.

"Multimedia is the wave of the future in training," says Mark Overington, product manager at Avid Technology Inc., a Burlington, Mass.-based video graphics software publisher. "It will allow people to acquire knowledge in the easiest possible way, by letting them perform the chore in a risk-free environment. It will transform a student from an observer into a participant."

Barbara Hawkins, director of Electronic Directions, a New York-based electronic publishing research and training center, notes that there is no limit to potential multimedia applications. "It is one of those 'if you can imagine it you can do it' situations. Right now, the only block is the technology."

Working on solving the technology block are such companies as IBM, Intel and Microsoft, all of which recently entered into a pact to bring multimedia software to personal computers. Their technology, dubbed Digital Video Interactive (DVI) is expected to reach market within four years. Overseas, Sony, Matsushita and Philips are collaborating on a similar technology—Compact Disc Interactive (CDI). Like DVI, CDI will draw its video and computer data from a compact disc, although the two approaches use different CD standards.

Information services may also play a role in upcoming multimedia ventures. Overington thinks future multimedia systems may use modems as well as CD-ROM drives to access information. "Data transfer speeds will have to be greatly increased, but it is a possibility," he says.

*—John Edwards*

## IBM Writing Interface May Replace Typing

To successfully use a computer—be it for simple word processing or complex programming—one basic skill is required: the ability to type.

However, IBM Corp. is exploring a way to use computers in which people write on a flat surface, much like using a pen and paper. Dubbed the "Paperlike Interface," the product would allow a computer to be controlled more naturally and conveniently than is possible with a keyboard or mouse.

In the experimental IBM system, the writing appears on a special display in a kind of "electronic ink." Then, handwriting-recognition software developed by the research group instantly translates the writing and other hand-drawn marks, such as lines, proofreaders' marks, mathematical symbols and musical notes, into words, numbers and commands for the computer. The computer recognizes human handwriting in real time, with almost human accuracy.

"Writing or drawing on the Paperlike Interface performs the same functions as pressing keys on a keyboard or moving a mouse, but it is more intuitive to use, requiring less effort and fewer actions," says IBM spokesman Gerald Present.

With only a line and a symbol drawn directly on the display, for example, a column of financial spreadsheet numbers can easily be totaled. A circle and an arrow will move whole columns. An electronic document can be edited by writing on the display directly over the word or words that require change.

"There's no need to 'tell' the computer what changes it should make and where to make them; the user does it directly," says Present.

For more information, contact IBM Corp., Research Division, P.O. Box 218, Yorktown Hts., NY 10598; 914/945-3884.

## Students of the World

The School of Tomorrow is here today at Stone Valley Middle School in the suburbs of San Francisco.

The school, for fifth- to eighth-graders, is known for its academic excellence and emphasis on high technology. In 1978, when computers were rarely found in schools or homes, the Stone Valley PTA raised funds to provide a Commodore Pet Computer Lab in the school, which is still in use today.

More than 10 years later, the school is forging ahead with another ambitious program that has placed a Macintosh SE or Apple IIgs on the desk of every teacher. However, the computers are used for much more than composing class assignments. In addition to telecommunications, the computers are used for the School of Tomorrow Project—an international curriculum exchange between the California students and their peers in the Soviet Union, France, England and Sweden.

To learn more about each others' cultures and lifestyles as well as to hone writing skills, the students create newsletters that are sent via modem to the other schools. English is used as the common language.

The first newsletters the students produced this past spring offered a variety of prose and poetry about things important to them—their hometowns, current events, books and personal experiences.

"Throughout the project, the emphasis is not on learning about computers for themselves but on using computers and other technology as tools, in the same way that we now use pencils, calculators and books," says Patricia Kenber, a parent volunteer with the project and a former IBM systems engineer. "When we use computers for writing, the aim will be to free the children from the physical task to focus on the mental one."

To achieve this goal, students will not only use the computers but also interactive video, online databases and laser discs. Kenber says the use of so much high technology is not merely to provide more information, but to give the students the opportunity to make choices about the type of information they want and how they want to analyze and present it.

Linking up with foreign schools is expected to add depth and perspective to the subjects studied. The students have responded positively to the writing.

For more information, consult file SCHTOM.TXT in Library 11 of the Education Forum (GO EDFORUM); or contact Stone Valley Middle School, 3001 Miranda Ave., Alamo, CA 94507, or via EasyPlex at 71211,674.

*—Cathryn Conroy*

## Taking Command of Programming

You may be a programmer and not even know it.

These days, it seems as if every new software package comes with its own built-in command language. Lotus 1-2-3, Procomm and XyWrite are only a few of the dozens of products that let users create their own highly customized bits of code.

Unlike "real" programming languages, command languages are designed for use by the masses—no computer science degree is required. Still, despite their inherent simplicity, command languages can occasionally confound even the most seasoned computer users. When the screen turns black and all seems lost, one place to turn for help is CompuServe's Programmers' Forum (GO PROGFORUM).

George Olson

**Paulsen**

"You don't have to be an expert programmer to use a command language for simple things," says Brad Paulsen, the forum's primary administrator. "Like any other power-extending device, though, the more power the language provides, the more complex it will be to learn and use."

Paulsen believes that while most computer users can become proficient in a command language in about two weeks, such knowledge does not automatically make one a real programmer. He compares most command language programmers to backyard auto mechanics—people who know their way around an engine but lack the knowledge to perform intricate repair work. "I think the average user would do well when comparing products with similar core functions, such as spreadsheets, to find out how easy it is to do basic things with the command languages," Paulsen says.

You can contact Paulsen at CompuServe User ID number 76703,1005.

In addition to the Programmers' Forum, command language users also can find assistance in CompuServe's various software support forums. (For example, type FIND APPLE, FIND IBM.)

*—John Edwards*

*How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe*

# Create Private Groups on CB

*by Charles Bowen and David Peyton*

Last month's column introduced the basics of the CB Simulator—how to reach the feature, how it is organized into two bands of 36 channels each, and how to listen and talk to others on those public channels.

If that were all CB had to offer, it still would be a pretty busy corner of the system, but that was only half the story. This month we focus on the flip side of CB, the world of private and semi-private talks through the system's new "Group" commands.

This feature allows you and one or more other users to move away from the madding crowd. Once inside a group, your messages are displayed, not to those on public channels, but only to those inside your group. The privacy continues until you exit to a public channel again.

To get things rolling, you need to know the *job number* of the person to whom you want to speak privately. That is a one-, two- or three-digit number that CompuServe automatically assigns to each user when he or she logs into the conferencing area. No two job numbers are identical, and each user's job number is displayed in the public transmissions, like this:

```
**********
(A1-205,Bluegrass) Hi folks. Good to
see all of you!
**********
```

"A1" here refers to Band A, Channel 1; the next digits are the job number (205), followed by the speaker's handle and message.

Also, as illustrated last month, job numbers appear on the *user status* report when you enter a /USERS command.

To talk privately to another user, type the command /INVite followed by the other user's job number, such as /INV 23. Now you see a message such as:

```
**********
% Entering group
-/BREAK exits group
-/USERS lists group members
% Inviting Job 23 to join group
**********
```

While you await the recipient of your invitation, you no longer see the conversation on the public channel to which you were tuned. As the message indicates, you can type /BREAK to exit the group (that is, to *stop* waiting) and return to the public channel you came from. In fact, you can type *any* of the usual CB commands while in private groups, including /STAtus, /MONitor, /UNMonitor and /USErs. You also can invite other users into your group, one at a time, by typing /INVite and another job number.

On the other end of your /INVitations, each recipient sees something like this message:

```
**********
% Job 4 [71635,1025] Bluegrass
invites you to /JOIN 4
**********
```

Notice the system provides him or her with your current job number (4), your User ID number and your current handle. The recipient can turn down your /INVitation by simply ignoring this message. Or he or she can accept the offer by typing /JOIn followed by your job number. This takes a user out of the public channels and into a private talk area, to be greeted by this system's message:

```
**********
% Entering group
- /BREAK exits group
- /USERS lists group members
**********
```

Others already inside the private group are informed whenever someone new /JOIns; the system reports something like, "Lady Editor has joined the group."

Once two or more people have joined a private group, their messages are displayed only to each other. In groups, the system slightly changes the format of messages, to something like this:

```
**********
(23,Lady Editor) Hi folks. Thanks for
inviting me!
**********
```

Because talkers in groups are no longer on public channels, the messages omit the usual band and channel number before the handle, instead displaying only a pound sign and the talker's job number (23 in this example).

Anyone inside the group can /INVite others to /JOIn by entering the /INVite command followed by a job number. In other words, the person who started the group has no special authority over future members; everyone on the inside has the power to bring in more talkers.

Some people in private groups like to continue listening to a few of the public channels, with the /MONitor command discussed in last month's column. In addition, the /USErs command can have some special applications for private groups. You can type /USERS OPEN for a list of all users currently on all open channels. Typing /USERS GRP gives the same data on all users currently talking in private groups.

When you are ready to leave a private group and return to the public channels, type /BREAK and see something like, "Entering channel 6." Back in the group, others see a message such as, "Lady Editor leaves the group." When you leave a group, you may not return to it with a /JOIn command unless someone in the group /INVites you again.

Sometimes when you are on public channels, you don't want to be disturbed with /INVitations to private talks. For those occasions, type /NOInvite. This causes the system to automatically decline any requests directed your way, with a message that says something like, "Job 6 is busy." The /NOInvite is in effect for the current session only. To turn off /NOInvite, type /INVite with no trailing job number.

You can see a list of your current INVitations by typing /JOIn *without* a job number. This causes the system to display something like this:

```
**********
Pending invitations from 4 - /JOIN
to accept an invitation
**********
```

Note that if the sender of the invitation enters /BREAK before you accept, the message is:

```
**********
No invitations pending - /INVITE
another user to join you
**********
```

You don't have to be on the same public channel with an intended recipient to /INVite him or her to a group.

If you type the /JOIn command without being /INVited by someone else, the system informs you with something like, "No invitation to JOIN 6-/INVITE 6 to join you."

You can send an /INVitation to someone who is *already* in a private group, and you can send it from a public channel or from a group. The recipi-

ent receives the usual systems notification of the /INVitation. If he or she accepts, the user automatically leaves the current group for the new one with you.

Here are some additional conferencing commands that can be used in private groups or on the public channels:

/SQUelch, followed by the handle, the User ID or the job number of a subscriber, causes the system to discontinue sending you messages from a particular user. If you typed /SQU HARPO or /SQU 23 or /SQU 70000,010, the system reports that a particular User ID number has been squelched, "% Squelching [70000,010]." To "unsquelch," type /SQU with no handle, and the system says, "% No longer squelching."

The system keeps track of those to whom you are not interested in listening. A single /SQU command (that is, /SQU without any data following it) lifts the ban against all you have squelched.

/WHO helps you put names and handles together with User ID numbers. Suppose your friend with User ID 71635,1025 is somewhere on CB, but you don't know which handle or channel he or she is using. You can type /WHO 71635,1025 to cause the system to scan the CB channels on that band and, if it finds the User ID number you have specified, it reports something like:

```
**********
23 71635,1025 HWV 1 Bluegrass
**********
```

/WHO also works if you know your friend's current job number, as in /WHO 23. Or you can specify a handle, as in /WHO BLUEGRASS.

/PAGE followed by the other person's current job number, as in /PAGE 23, causes the system to send your friend what amounts to a CB version of a beeper, something like this:

```
**********
Job 214 [70000,000] Bluegrass has
just /PAGE'd you
**********
```

You then might send your friend a request for a private talk or just look him up on the public channels with the /WHO command.

/NOPAGE is for those times when you don't want to be interrupted by /PAGEs, turning off your own beeper. That tells the system you are not accepting /PAGE requests at the moment. Anyone who tries to page you then is told you are not available.

When you are ready to turn the beeper back on, enter /PAGE.

Finally, a relatively new feature of the CB Simulator is Profile, a way to learn a little something about those who are using the system. A CB Profile is a voluntarily submitted public file that contains a user's handle, User ID number, birthdate and age computed from the birthdate, city and state, the type of computer being used, occupation and interests.

To install your own CB Profile, type GO CBPROFILE (or /GO CBPROFILE while on a CB channel), which takes you to the CB Profile menu:

```
**********
CB SIMULATOR
CB Profiles
  1 Description
  2 Enter/Change your profile
  3 Delete your profile
**********
```

Once your profile is on file, and you are on CB, other CBers have instant access to it, by entering:

/PROfile followed by either the User ID (/PRO 71635,1025), a handle (/PRO Bluegrass) or a job number (/PRO 52) and you might see:

```
**********
Handle: Bluegrass [71636,1025]
Birth: 1/14/49 40
From: Huntington, W.Va.
Using: IBM PC
Job: Writer
Interests: Reading, folk music, jazz,
Dylan
**********
```

And while on a CB channel, you can check your own profile by typing /PRO followed by your own handle, User ID or job number.

*Charles Bowen and David Peyton co-authored* How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe. *Bowen's CompuServe User ID number is 70007,411. Peyton's is 76703,244.*


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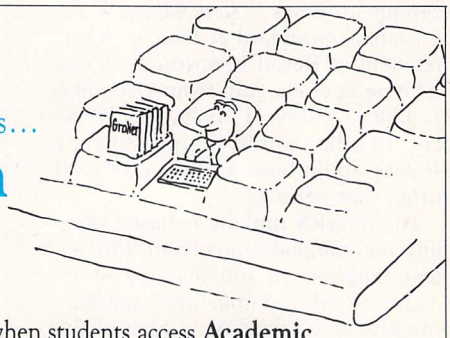


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# Dazzling Performance

## *S&P's STARS Measures Immediate Market Potential of Stocks*

*by Carole Houze Gerber*

Keeping current on the thousands of stocks traded daily on the American and New York Exchanges and the over-the-counter market is an impossible task for most investors, many of whom rely on brokers and analysts for investment advice.

An outstanding resource for measuring the immediate market potential of stocks is Standard & Poor's *ST*ock *A*ppreciation *R*anking *S*ystems—STARS—an analyst-driven ranking system that evaluates the six- to 12-month appreciation potential of more than 800 common stocks. Many of the high-performing stocks from these recommendations appear on CompuServe's S&P Online's Master List and Investment Ideas (GO S&P).

"STARS has outperformed the market by quite a high percentage over the two-and-a-half years we've been keeping statistics," says Michael Grossman, Standard & Poor's vice president of Retail Electronic Services. "The percentage gain from December 31, 1986, to May 31, 1989, was 70 percent. In other words, an investment of $10,000 would have grown to $17,000 during that period."

The STARS ranking is based on daily recommendations from S&P's most experienced equities analysts. Analysts rank the immediate market potential of stocks from a high of five stars—those top stocks expected to rise even in a falling market—to a low ranking of one-star stocks, which analysts recommend selling because they are expected to fall regardless of market conditions. In between are four-star stocks, which analysts view as above-average performers; three-star average performers; and two-star stocks, which S&P sees as below-average performers.

Among the elements analysts evaluate to determine STARS rankings are per-share earnings and dividends over the past decade. In addition to the company's prospects and valuation relative to the market, and before final rankings are set, S&P analysts take into account growth, stability and the cyclical nature of the market. "This long-term view enables analysts to see how stocks have performed under a variety of economic conditions," says Grossman.

Although S&P Online publishes reports on more than 4,700 stocks, only 826 of these stocks presently merit inclusion in the STARS rankings. Of the 826 stocks in the STARS system in 1989, only 68 had received a five-star ranking as of June 1.

"Our analysts tend to concentrate on solid, blue-chip stocks," explains Grossman, "but they look at emerging growth, special situations and cyclical issues as well. Because of S&P's comprehensive approach to evaluating the market, the STARS system of ranking stocks is useful to many types of investors.

"Different types of investors rely on STARS for different purposes. Market-timers—those investors who try to play the ups and downs of the broad stock market—use STARS to make quick decisions on short-term trading. Growth-oriented investors interested in long-term gains can use STARS to improve their chances of immediate appreciation in their stock selection," he says. "Even conservative investors bent on conserving capital and taking little or no risk find STARS useful in timing stock purchases bought for income."

Grossman's advice to the neophyte investor is first to determine how much you are willing to risk in the stock market, and then determine your investment goals. He then recommends consulting either the Master List or Investment Ideas, both accessible through S&P Online.

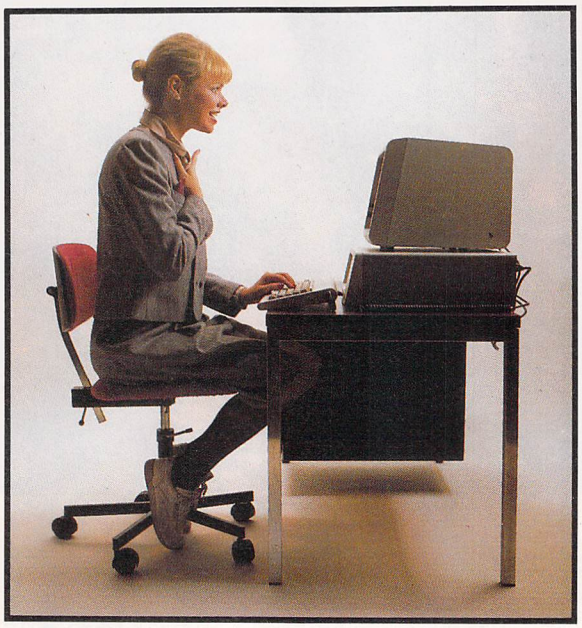
Stocks on the Master List are recommended for specific goals, such as accumulating a retirement or college education fund, or building an estate. Stocks placed on the Master List are favored by S&P analysts and the S&P investment committee, which is composed of the director of research; the senior vice president for equities; the editor of *Outlook*, a weekly investment advisory newsletter; a technical analyst; and two senior analysts. The Master List is reviewed and updated weekly. Stocks in its two categories are those believed to have long-term growth and appreciation value, and those recommended for total return with an emphasis on current income.

Investment Ideas features stocks analysts believe will outperform the stock market during the next six to 12 months. Stocks listed in Investment Ideas fall into one of these categories: long-term growth, income and total return, or emerging growth and special situations. "The STARS rankings do not actually appear online in analysts' recommendations," explains Grossman. "But they are used in making judgments. All online recommendations are on four- and five-star stocks, except for the 'income and total return' category in Investment Ideas, which may include three-star stocks that offer secure, superior dividend return."

Grossman adds that investors also may want to look at another online selection, S&P's individual company profiles, which contains statistical information and business summaries on about 4,700 companies. Access to S&P Online carries a surcharge of $2 for the Master List and Investment Ideas and a $1 surcharge for individual company profiles.

*Carole Houze Gerber is a contributing editor of* Online Today. *Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007,1215.*

Artists Only



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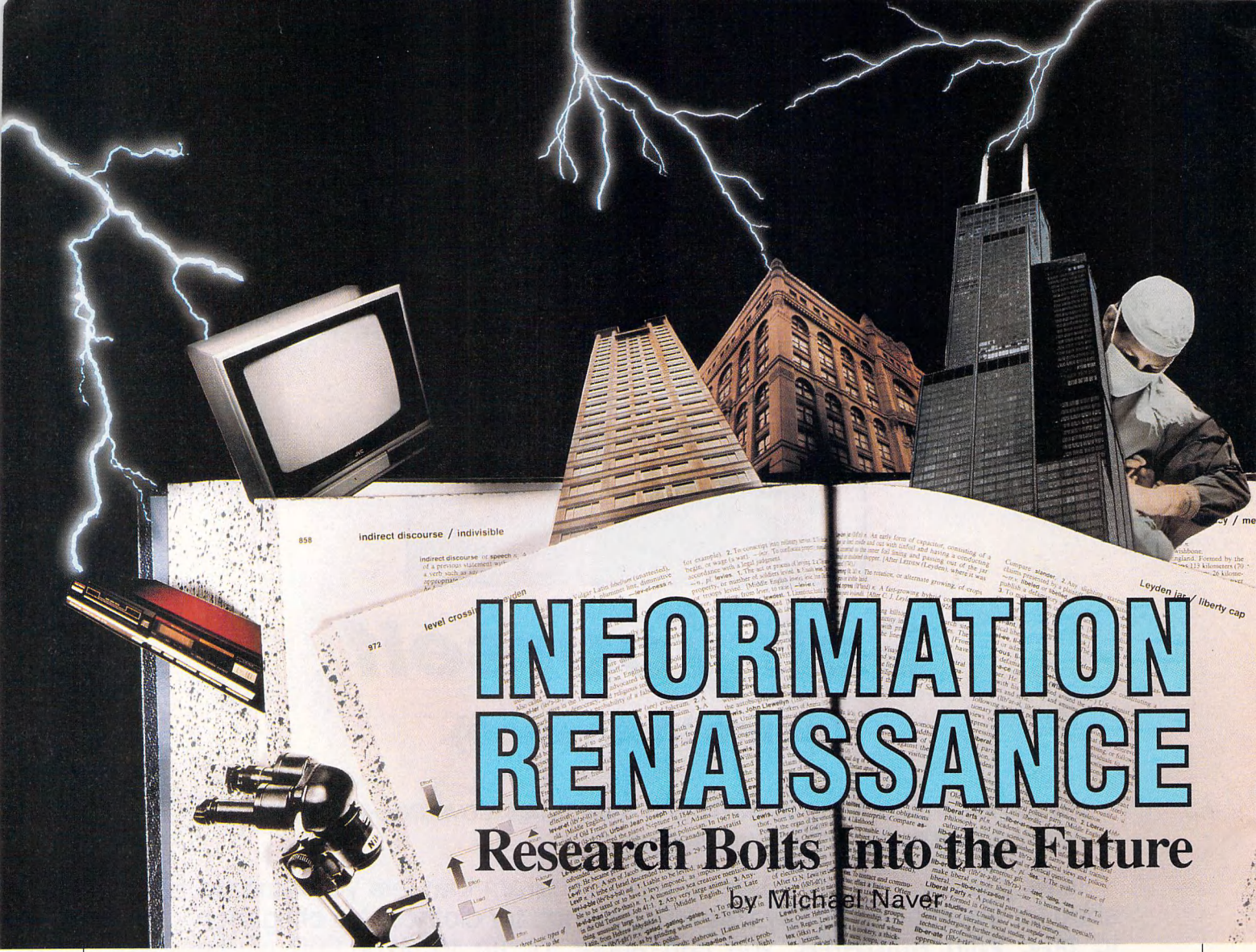



# INFORMATION RENAISSANCE

## Research Bolts Into the Future

by Michael Naver

Mention the word research and what usually comes to mind is hours spent in a library reading through a pile of journals or hunting for books in dusty, dimly lit stacks. Often you need only a few facts, but finding those facts is like trying to find a needle in a haystack. Even when the librarian tries to help, the search can be slow and frustrating. And who's got the time?

This image of research might have been true in the past, but not today. Thanks to CompuServe, online research offers speed, convenience and economies of time and dollars when information vital to home, business or school is needed. Not only does your computer give near-instant access to a seemingly limitless supply of information on CompuServe, but it does it 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Online research means not just archived books, magazines and other historical data, but current information as well—from major newspapers, wire services and original sources such as CompuServe forums, where expert users share their knowledge on message boards, in original text files and in real-time conferencing "chats."

Let's look at four popular research applications—business, health, education and consumer products—and see how some members put CompuServe to use in their homes and businesses.

### Business Databases: Time is Money

Jay Brown, a Detroit-based management consultant who specializes in turning around failing companies, uses IQuest (GO IQUEST) to conduct the industry analyses essential to his work. "My background is in finance and operations, so I know what makes a company profitable," he says. "But I'm obviously not an expert in everything."

IQuest, one of the most comprehensive reference and information services, provides members with immediate access to more than 850 databases. Full-text and bibliographic source materials in these databases range from books, magazines and newspapers to government documents, records of conference proceedings, directories, dissertations and patent records. There is a charge for accessing IQuest and some of the other research databases. Successful search and retrieval through IQuest from individual databases costs $9, but if no data meeting your specified criteria turns up on the first try, there is no charge. Subsequent dry runs cost $1 each.

Brown uses IQuest to gather information for "up-front analysis" of a particular industry. This initial analysis provides him with a preliminary overview of economic and competitive trends. He then checks the industry-specific publications available through IQuest to find out what a particular industry's experts have to say. For recent research, he looks at databases containing dissertation abstracts. Finally, for current business news and more in-depth industry information, he checks news databases and those containing company data.

"It would take me five to 10 times longer to get this information at the library," Brown says. "Considering the time involved and the value the information has to me, an online search is not that expensive."

Danny O'Connor/Studio B

Like Brown, Memphis stockbroker Robert Everett also has found CompuServe's research databases to be valuable business resources. Everett, who two years ago left a major brokerage house to work independently, says, "I use Disclosure II to get Securities and Exchange Commission Reports on publicly held companies. For earnings information on stocks I don't follow, I go to the I/B/E/S database."

Disclosure II (GO DISCLOSURE) is a surcharged database compiled from the reports that publicly owned companies file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Disclosure II provides comprehensive financial, descriptive and personnel information on 10,500 publicly owned companies. I/B/E/S Earnings Estimates (GO IBES) contains annual and long-term forecasts on 3,400 companies from more than 2,500 analysts at 130 brokerage and institutional research firms.

Chicago-based public relations consultant Ron Solberg also uses Disclosure II, as well as several other business databases. "In the business world, time is money and the databases I consult save me a lot of time. I use Disclosure to find information about companies I'm in the process of prospecting for my public relations and marketing business," he explains. "I also use Value Line and S&P Online to gather data that will help me know as much as I can about the company so I can make intelligent points when I talk with that company's executives."

Value Line Data Base II (GO VLINE) contains historical information on 1,700 companies, representing 95 percent of the dollar value of stocks traded on major US exchanges. Standard and Poor's Online (GO S&P) is a surcharged database stocked with recent information on 4,800 companies, including business summaries, earnings outlooks, historical earnings, dividends and product line summaries.

To keep up with news that may affect current and potential clients, Solberg turns to the surcharged Executive News Service (GO ENS), an online electronic clipping service that monitors Associated Press news wires, McGraw-Hill News, Reuters Financial Report and other news services for stories containing the keywords and phrases he specifies. "I rely on ENS for my daily reading," Solberg explains. "In a week, I may get close to 500 articles. On an average day, 50 to 70 clippings will be waiting for me to read at my leisure. It's a great time-saver."

Finally, to help clients target their marketing efforts, Solberg uses two surcharged demographic databases, SUPERSITE and ACORN. SUPERSITE (GO SUPERSITE) generates customized reports based on more than 60 million data items related to income, demographics and sales potential. "SUPERSITE's demographic information delineated by ZIP codes helped me in working with a school district that was considering a referendum," Solberg says. "The ZIP code analysis also confirmed the district's own population study statistics."

Within SUPERSITE, "A Classification of Residential Neighborhoods" (GO ACORN) classifies all US households into 44 market segments based on the socioeconomic, demographic and housing characteristics of each neighborhood. Solberg consulted ACORN to obtain data for a developer interested in targeting specific neighborhoods where building single-family homes, condominiums and townhouses would be profitable ventures.

"Another benefit to using SUPERSITE and ACORN was that I could recommend which advertising media the developer should use to reach areas with the greatest concentration of people most likely to be interested in these types of housing," Solberg adds.

### Medical Databases Provide Information, Reassurance

Medical professionals and consumers alike have found the National Organization for Rare Diseases Services/Rare Disease Database (GO NORD) and PaperChase (GO PAPERCHASE) outstanding sources for medical information. The non-profit Rare Disease Database is dedicated to compiling and distributing information about the identification, control and cure of rare diseases. PaperChase, which carries a surcharge, is an easy-to-use version of MEDLINE, the database of the National Library of Medicine. It contains more than 6 million medical references from 4,000 journals.

Not surprisingly, many people with rare diseases feel both isolated and uninformed. Such was the case with J. Lowell Kamerath, an Ogden, Utah, power company employee and father of four who suffers from *ornithine transcarbamylase deficiency*. The disorder is caused by a deficiency of one of the enzymes needed for the incorporation of ammonia into urea. If left untreated, *ornithine transcarbamylase deficiency* manifests itself by an elevated level of toxic ammonia in the blood that can lead to brain damage, coma, seizures and, eventually, death.

Kamerath, who was diagnosed five years ago at the Mayo Clinic, controls this extremely rare hereditary disorder with a special diet and medication. "When I was diagnosed, I was told there was only one other adult male who had it," Kamerath says. "Since then, I've gotten leads through NORD to other people around the country with the disorder." (Rare disease sufferers wishing to be put in touch with one another must fill out a written permission form for participation in NORD's networking program. See the "networking" menu selection on NORD for details.)

Kamerath credits NORD with supplying him with comprehensive information about his disease that would have been difficult to find elsewhere. He has shared his research on the disorder with a relative. "I downloaded the information from NORD to a female second cousin who has had one son die of the disease, and whose other son has been diagnosed," says

Kamerath. "The Rare Disease Database has provided me with the opportunity to glean information for myself and others. I urge others suffering from rare diseases to take advantage of this database."

The fact that information on NORD and other databases is available round-the-clock is a major plus, according to Gary Silverman, a nuclear power station employee in Fort Worth, Texas. Silverman took advantage of the 24-hour access after his sister-in-law called late one night to share the upsetting news that she'd been diagnosed as having *lupus*, an inflammatory connective-tissue disease that can affect many parts of the body including the joints, skin and internal organs.

"Her call came on a weekend night, so my wife and I couldn't get to the library," Silverman says. "I looked in my *CompuServe Almanac*, located the Rare Disease Database and followed the menu prompts to gather information on *lupus*.

"What we learned was informative," he says. "We found that *lupus* is often confused with other arthritic-type diseases affecting the joints. We sent this information to my sister-in-law, and were able to go to bed with some peace of mind because we knew more about what she was dealing with."

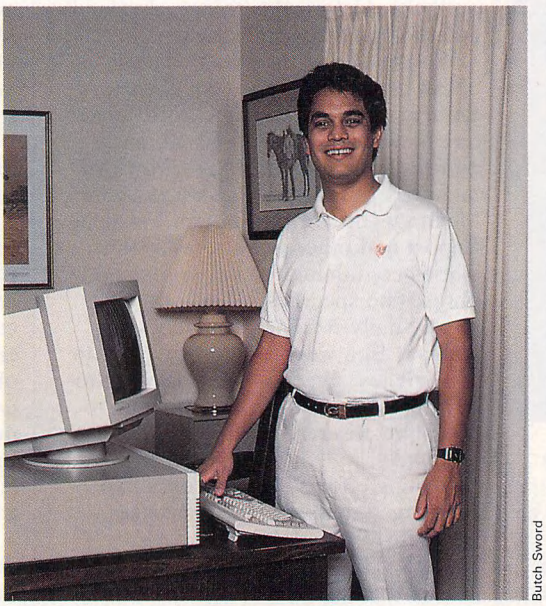
Silverman later asked about *lupus* in the Medical Forum (GO MEDSIG), a forum sponsored by the American Association for Medical Systems and Informatics that represents all segments of the professional medical community. What he learned in the database and forum helped influence his sister-in-law to get a second opinion—and it's a good thing she did. "The second run of tests did not confirm *lupus*," Silverman reports.

PaperChase gives access to MEDLINE, the National Library of Medicine's huge database that contains extensive collection of professional medical references. For this reason, PaperChase is more likely to be accessed by doctors and other medical professionals than by medical consumers. The database is especially appealing to medical researchers and writers, who appreciate the fact that each month 25,000 new references are indexed and abstracted.

Chicago-based free-lance science writer W.A. Thomasson frequently uses PaperChase to track down information for the book-length reports he prepares for corporate research directors and planning managers studying leading-edge medical technologies for their investment potential. "I recently finished a 196-page report on the commercial prospects of genetically engineered animals," he says.

"I set up several search terms, which PaperChase used to find 60 or 70 citations. The cost was about $15. The alternative would have been to drive to a research library 15 miles away and plow through chemical abstracts and indexes by hand. The difference in time spent was a couple of hours online versus two or three days at the library."

New York medical writer Serena Stockwell also found PaperChase a welcome research partner when she needed more information to supplement what she'd gathered in an interview with a doctor. Armed only with the last name of an author, she searched PaperChase and gradually narrowed her search until she found three articles that suited her needs from an initial list of hundreds.



Butch Sword

**Tracking down lupus online:** *Silverman*

"Without a computer, the only way I could have found this would have been to go to the medical library and spend hours checking as many as 21 huge indices," Stockwell reports. "With PaperChase, I got the information in minutes for about five dollars."

Among the other medical-related databases and forums on CompuServe are Information USA/Health, the Consumer Health Forum and HealthNet. None carry a surcharge. Information USA/Health (GO USA/ HEALTH) provides information on how to find and use free and inexpensive health-related government publications and services.

The Consumer Health Forum (GO GOODHEALTH) provides general health-related information and support groups on such topics as fitness, alcohol and drug dependency, and family health. HealthNet (GO HNT), a comprehensive online medical reference source, contains a reference library and features a bimonthly newsletter and a question-and-answer forum. It is run by a team of licensed, board-certified physicians.

### Education Forums and Databases: Sources of Facts, Friendship

For students of all ages who must burn the traditional "midnight oil," databases and forums provide a 24-hour link to information and advice. Robert Olding, a doctoral student in educational psychology at Arizona State University, says round-the-clock access to IQuest, the Educational Research Forum (GO EDRESEARCH) and some of the specialized hardware and software forums has made it easier to balance his studies with the demands of work and family. Olding also is the father of six and administrator of the diagnostic reception center for the Arizona Department of Corrections.

"IQuest has been an essential tool in conducting research, writing papers and completing assignments related to my job," he says. "The Educational Research Forum has helped me keep up in my specialized area of study."

The forum, sponsored by the Midwestern Educational Research Association, is for researchers and educators to share and discuss the latest educational research.

For Chuck Phillips, of Pembroke Pines, Fla., CompuServe was a chance to demonstrate the value of his computer to his family—and left him time to watch his beloved Miami Dolphins on Monday Night Football.

Phillips' daughter, a college freshman, couldn't find the research materials her professor had ordered. "My wife was upset, and my daughter close to tears as midterm examinations neared."

Wondering if CompuServe could help, Phillips went into IQuest. "I initiated a search and was soon informed there were eight abstracts meeting my daughter's criteria. I printed the abstract copies and asked her to look them over. "That's it," she shouted.

"I've been looking for that darn article for three weeks." It was simple to arrange for a hardcopy to be mailed to her in time to meet her deadline."

Other educational services of potential interest to students—and teachers—include the Education Forum (GO EDFORUM), the AEJMC Forum (GO AEJMC), the Students' Forum (GO STUFO), the Science and Math Forum (GO SCIENCE), and the Foreign Language Education Forum (GO FLEFO). The Education Forum welcomes participation by parents, as well as students and teachers, to ongoing discussions on a variety of educational topics. The AEJMC Forum, sponsored by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, is the meeting place for communicators to exchange advice and professional information. For middle school students, the Students' Forum provides a link to others their own age throughout the world.

"The forums are super sources of information, discussion and support," says Curtis Condon, a graduate student majoring in magazine journalism at the University of Oregon. Condon uses professional forums such as AEJMC, the Journalism Forum (GO JFORUM) and the PR and Marketing Forum (GO PRSIG) to find interview subjects for writing assignments.

Students not yet enrolled in college will find Peterson's College Database (GO PETERSON) a fine resource for gathering information about post-high school education. This surcharged database contains in-depth information on 3,100 colleges and universities related to tuition, special programs, deadlines and other topics.

### Consumers Scope Out Products

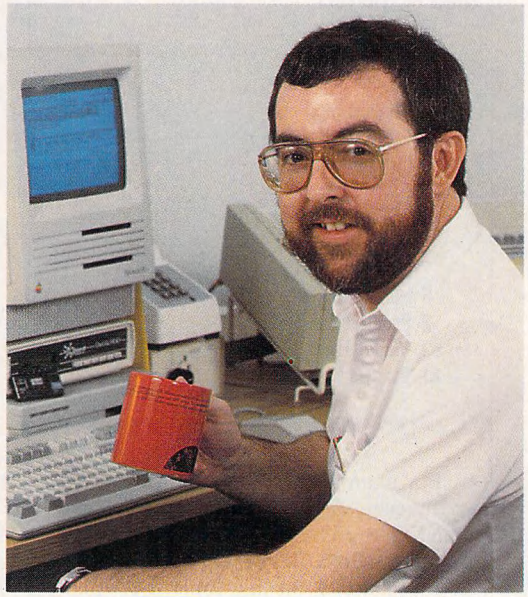
Consumer databases such as Consumer Reports and Computer Database Plus, along with specialty user forums such as the Consumer Electronics Forum can help make the often tedious task of buying consumer items easier and less expensive.

Consumer Reports (GO CONSUMER) contains reports prepared by Consumers Union that appeared in *Consumer Reports* magazine. The reports are listed in one of four categories: appliances, automobiles, electronics and cameras, and home products. Reports are removed when Consumers Union feels they are outdated.

"CompuServe is another avenue for people to get access to our information," says David Berliner, spokesman for Consumers Union. "Although many of our subscribers keep a library of back issues of *Consumer Reports*, others don't. Online access provides them with a valuable tool."

Jim Phillips, a systems analyst with the University of Kentucky community college system, is one reader who doesn't save back copies of the magazine. "I was absolutely delighted to find *Consumer Reports* online," he says. "I was able to look at articles on VCRs without having to go to the library."

Phillips also might have found information about VCRs in the Consumer Electronics Forum (GO CEFORUM).



Bill Sanders

**IQuest saves time for football:** *Phillips*

The forum provides advice on consumer audio, video, software, telephone systems, satellite systems and other electronic paraphernalia. Bob Adams, a contract negotiator for a Los Angeles aircraft manufacturer, used the forum to inform himself about home satellite TV systems.

"I knew little or nothing about home satellite devices, and this is an area where an uninformed consumer can really get taken," says Adams, who exchanged messages about the product with knowledgeable forum members. He also downloaded several textfiles on the subject from the forum's library. "I got recommendations for specific equipment and even learned of a dealer about 50 miles from my home," Adams reports. "He gave me a considerably lower price and offered better components than local dealers."

Another excellent online resource for consumers is Computer Database Plus (GO COMPDB), a surcharged database stocked with articles on hardware, software, electronics, engineering, communications and technological applications. This database, which is updated weekly, provides nine methods for locating computer-related articles in more than 130 magazines, newspaper and journal titles that go back to Jan. 1, 1987.

*Washington Post* computer columnist Lawrence Magid used Computer Database Plus to locate information about selecting a drawing program for a personal computer. Magid began his search broadly, using "draw" as his keyword and then, following online prompts, narrowed the search to a list of 30 articles. He requested the full text for two articles. "The whole process took less than 10 minutes and cost about $6 for the search and $3 for the articles," Magid says. "Considering how long it would have taken me to find the information at a library or bookstore, using Computer Database Plus was a reasonable investment."

### Saving the Day

Telecommunications lets us reach out for knowledge and frees us to follow our inquiries, wherever they lead, across a broad span of information that has never before been so readily available. In an unpredictable stock market, we can research company and financial information rather than wonder if our financial advisor is conscientiously doing the same. In the middle of the night, worried about a sister-in-law's illness, we can take it upon ourselves to get a handle on just what the disease is all about. With midterm examinations nearing and a daughter fretting over her unsuccessful search for required material, we can pull up information that will save the day.

And perhaps that's what online research is all about: saving the day by providing a peace of mind—knowing that we can obtain information on our own, when we want it and exactly how we want it.

*Michael Naver of Baltimore, Md., is editor of* Public Relations Report: Hi-Tech/Computer Alert, *a newsletter advising corporate communicators and public relations counselors on uses of computer technology. His CompuServe User ID number is 76004,2242.*

# IQuest Scanning Speeds Data Searches

*by Cathryn Conroy*

Oftentimes the most complicated part of online research is identifying appropriate databases. Combing through many individual databases, without having some method of identifying which are best, can be a frustrating experience.

IQuest has restructured its offerings to bring organization to this online research process. A new feature, Search Multiple Databases, guides users who are unfamiliar with IQuest through the labyrinth of IQuest databases to zero in on those that provide the best information.

IQuest is one of the most comprehensive information and reference services available, offering access to more than 850 publications, databases and indexes from such fields as business, government, research, news, entertainment, the arts, medicine and science. Some of the databases provide full-text articles, while others provide abstracts or bibliographic information on articles or books.

Searches are conducted in three basic ways. In IQuest I, users receive the maximum level of assistance but relinquish much of their control over the search process. For those users who know exactly which database they want to search and have command of searching techniques, IQuest II allows them to control all aspects of the search using IQuest's menus and command language. For instance, biological information can be found in Biology Abstracts, or specific proposed federal government regulations can be retrieved from Federal Register Abstracts.

But most research is not that simple. Information is needed from a variety of sources to solve a complex problem or examine a complicated issue. And not all users know which databases cover their areas of interest. IQuest's menu-based scanning process, the third basic searching method, efficiently guides users to the information they require.

The system now assumes more responsibility for directing the search. You need only follow the menu-based prompts, answering the questions that will ultimately provide the information you need.

After selecting Option 3 from IQuest's main menu, you are presented with this menu:

```
**********************************

  1 Business
  2 Science & Technology
  3 Medicine & Allied Health
  4 Law, Patents, Tradenames
  5 Social Sciences & Education
  6 Arts, Literature, Religion
  7 Biographical Information
  8 News
  9 General Reference

**********************************
```

Like the branches of a tree, each of these options produces yet another menu of more specific choices. Business, for instance, yields this menu that allows users to pinpoint the exact area of interest:

```
**********************************

  1 Accounting
  2 Banking & Finance
  3 Companies
  4 Economics
  5 Industries
  6 Insurance
  7 Management
  8 Marketing & Advertising
  9 Product Lines
 10 Real Estate
 11 Taxation

**********************************
```

For example, the president of an engineering firm wants information on which is the greater employee motivator—compensation or job satisfaction. To find articles on this topic, he would select the main topic of "Business" and from the next menu choose "Management." He then inserts his search terms.

Devising a search strategy is the most difficult part of online database research. The keywords must be inclusive enough to produce results, but not so broad that they result in a deluge of general information. This is the art and science of electronic research. And IQuest can help here, too. Type SOS at the main menu prompt, and you'll be immediately connected with professional reference librarians who will offer individual assistance. The SOS Service is available at no additional charge.

In this case, consulting SOS produces the following phrase: MOTIVATION AND (COMPENSATION OR COMPENSATION PLAN/) AND SATISFACTION. This search produces the following results:

```
************************************

                                  Source
Press to Search Results Format    Type
  Harvard Business      0 full text journals
    Review
1 ABI/INFORM           47 abstract journals
  Agribusiness USA      0 abstract journals
  Biobusiness           0 reference journals
  Books in Print        0 reference books
  Chemical Business     0 abstract journals
    Newsbase
2 Foreign Trade &       3 abstract journals
    Econ Abstracts
3 *Management          46 abstract journals
    Contents
  McGraw-Hill           0 full text magazines
    Publications Online
  National Newspaper    0 reference newspapers
    Index
  Newsearch             0 reference newspapers
4 PTS PROMPT            6 abstract multiple
                                   sources
  Trade & Industry      0 full text multiple
    ASAP                           sources
  Trade & Industry      0 reference multiple
    Index                          sources
  * Good choice for professional literature

************************************
```

The president decides to submit his search in both ABI/INFORM and Management Contents.

In another situation, suppose a college student studying art history is assigned a term paper on the French Impressionist painters Renoir and Monet. She selects "Arts, Literature, Religion" from the menu and then narrows it further by selecting "Art." Using the keywords IMPRESSIONISM AND (MONET AND RENOIR), she obtains results in nine databases. Five of them retrieve 90 references to articles. The student selects two databases and reads three of the articles.

When only a single database is searched, the results can be incomplete. In addition, because a search term may be appropriate for one database but ineffective in another, this multi-database search process offers a greater chance for success and fewer frustrations. This is the strength of the search process: IQuest selects the databases most likely to produce results and searches them quickly. Basic connect-time charges remain in effect.

Margaret M. Lynch, a supervisor of the SOS service, points out that conducting individual searches of each relevant database can be time consuming and expensive, especially since there is no way to estimate how many articles will be retrieved from each.

"The Search Multiple Databases option eliminates this problem by scanning a group of subject-related databases at one time, looking for any mention of the user's topic," she says, adding that the biggest advantage is the dramatic time savings. In many searches, IQuest recommends a database by marking it with an asterisk and explaining why, such as "good choice for professional literature."

Once the database is chosen, the search is automatically conducted. There is a $5 charge for the multiple database search. Complete information on all IQuest fees is available online.

Even experienced researchers who routinely consult one particular database through IQuest II may find the Search Multiple Databases Option useful at times. Some questions may take a user into an unfamiliar subject or require the integration of several disciplines to be properly answered. For example, an educator accustomed to turning to the ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) database may find that research on the effects of television advertising on children encompasses more than the sources he customarily uses. This question can best be answered by sociology resources. Using the new Search Multiple Databases options, he will find information quickly and efficiently even in unfamiliar territory.

For more information or to conduct a search through IQuest, type GO IQUEST.

*Cathryn Conroy is a contributing editor of* Online Today. *Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007,417.*

## Back-to-School Special on Online Encyclopedia

During the month of September, *Grolier's Online Academic American Encyclopedia* is giving three months of free access to new subscribers.

CompuServe members can access *Grolier's Online Academic American Encyclopedia's* more than 31,000 online articles during a nine-month school year for just $29.95.

The encyclopedia is normally available online for 12 months, six months or one month; regular subscription fees are $49.95, $29.95 and $7.50, respectively.

Type GO AAE at any CompuServe prompt for more information.

## Enter Tony Ramirez, Electronic Librarian

*by Jennifer Lowe*

By day, Tony Ramirez is a mild-mannered reference librarian. He answers questions, assists the confused and knows where to find facts. But at night, when Ramirez logs on to CompuServe with his personal computer, it's as though he has jumped into a phone booth for a quick change.

Ramirez becomes the Electronic Librarian.

Most nights, Ramirez offers assistance to students using the Students' Forum (GO STUFO). He might upload a book review or send a message to a student he has been helping with a school report. If there is a cry for help, it's the Electronic Librarian to the rescue.

Ramirez acquired his moniker about a year ago while exploring CompuServe. He happened upon the Students' Forum and was intrigued by what he saw. He wanted to share his expertise, so he contacted the forum administrator and proposed that he serve as a volunteer librarian, someone who could make the life of students easier and far more productive.

Dave Sessions

**Superhero status at night:** *Ramirez*

The response was enthusiastic, but then came the hard part. "I got excited about it, then I thought, 'Well, I'll have to sign my name'," Ramirez says. "But just that would not be enough identification. I needed to emphasize librarian, but I also needed to identify modern-day librarian. I decided 'Electronic Librarian' would be best."

As a reference librarian at the North Branch Library in Long Beach, Calif., Ramirez regularly shows students—and adults—how to use the library's computers to find books and research material. He discovered that students who often are turned off by shelves of books become more interested in doing research with a computer.

"I'm enthusiastic about the computer because it is another tool. It's a continuation and expansion of the world, of meeting people, of having a dialogue and thought exchange, of sharing information and ideas," says Ramirez, who has owned his personal computer since 1986.

Ironically, Ramirez uses the computer to promote using books. It is his hope, as the Electronic Librarian, to reach an audience that might not normally use a library but still needs help with research.

His favorite online exchange was with a class of elementary students in Illinois. Their teacher left a message in the Students' Forum asking for assistance with book reports. Ramirez responded to the students individually, recommending books and sources. He also offered to send several of his own books to one student.

"It was great," he says. "I built a rapport with people I didn't know. They got to know a librarian, and they learned things about the computer and searching techniques."

A Los Angeles native, Ramirez knew in high school that he wanted to be a librarian. "The atmosphere was one of knowledge and information, of discovering things," he says.

Fluent in Spanish, Ramirez studied comparative cultures at the University of California at Irvine and received a master's degree in library science from the University of Southern California. In his 25-year library career, he has worked all library posts, from a clerk shelving books to the librarian in charge. He dabbled in electronic libraries several years ago, working as a part-time librarian for a company offering computerized hotel reservations.

Ramirez tells students, "I'm going to give you something you can use so that you will be able to use this or any library. With a computer, you will be able to find material and do your homework 10 times faster. And if you get good at using it, you won't need me."

"If I can do a good job, and get the kids turned on, and they can relate to the computer and the items there, then I've done a good job," he says. "And I'm satisfied."

*Jennifer Lowe is a newspaper feature writer based in Orange County, Calif.*

## Concept-Based Programs Manage References

*by Pat Soberanis*

You've been good: You've read all the instructions on database searches. You've used IQuest's SmartScan and the other search utilities available on CompuServe. You're thrilled to discover your reward of 15 "hits" from three different CompuServe databases within minutes. You download those citations or articles. Because time is of the essence, you're now wondering: Must I wade through all 15 articles to find the few that I really need?

That's a good question, one that has plagued not just individuals but managers of mega-gigabyte databases as well. No matter how good the search, its results often will include only a few truly relevant articles, while the rest only tangentially relate to your needs.

But there is hope—at least on the horizon. The basic problem that has stumped most software programmers thus far is that the information retrieved from a search is text- rather than record-based, akin to a "comments" field in a user-constructed database. And, as with your citations, neither you nor your database knows the contents of this kind of field (it's not "indexed"), so it's difficult to retrieve the contents in an orderly fashion, as you could the contents of a "name" or an "address" field.

### Programs for Large-system Users

Verity Inc. is addressing this problem for large-system users with its Topic software, which it describes as "the first concept-based information-retrieval system." Instead of the linear Boolean logic (queries connecting keywords with OR, AND or NOT) ingrained in most search systems, Topic uses a user-defined and user-weighted hierarchical "outline" describing the relevant concept, which it uses to find documents and rank them by priority for the user. Such seemingly simple results as a prioritized list require amazing programming feats, which is why Topic is geared toward complex, highly sophisticated systems containing hundreds of thousands of text documents—and why it costs roughly $15,000 for the network package. But Verity Vice President of Marketing Bob Williams thinks it will become available to consumer markets within two or three years.

### Hypertext Programs

Other promising technologies fall under the umbrella of "hypertext," which includes HyperCard software currently bundled with the Apple Macintosh, and similar programs soon to come for the IBM PC. The hypertext concept can best be understood using DOS's tree metaphor: Getting from the "root" directory to a "branch" subdirectory may be straightforward, for example, but the process can be cumbersome when you want to go directly from one small branch to another. With hypertext, in theory, you can do just that. You can go from Mary's "Letters" subdirectory to John's "Reports" subdirectory without first having to go back through the root directory—or through DOS at all.

Hypertext works its magic by "linking" relevant information, such as a specification for wheelchair access on a building proposal and the access location on the corresponding architectural drawings. HyperCard is one of the first programs that made hypertext famous by providing "non-sequential access" to information, says Marc Stiegler, director of product development at Xanadu Operating Co. in Palo Alto, Calif. Some HyperCard-based drawing packages, for example, allow you to view one part of a drawing, then pop up another part of the same drawing on the screen. But such low-end programs "come nowhere near supplying what is needed to allow large numbers of readers and writers to share information," he adds.

### 'Open Hypertext'

In contrast, Xanadu's Hypermedia Information Server (HIS), due out by early next year, is an example of what Stiegler calls "open hypertext," which "will supply information management for unstructured and multimedia information for anything from Post-It notes to architectural drawings to video clips." It will come bundled with an application program that Stiegler hopes "will do for us what MacPaint and MacWrite did for the Macintosh"—make HIS instantly accessible and popular. Although Xanadu hasn't yet set a price, Stiegler says HIS will run on Sun Microsystems computers, while the application software will run on either Macs or IBM PCs.

Aside from futuristic potential, can hypertext or other technologies solve the problem of sorting through downloaded information? Although Esther

## Programs That Organize Online Information

Many downloadable programs on CompuServe help manage information retrieved from searchable databases. Apple and Macintosh users will find these programs helpful when juggling large data files.

| Program/ Filename | Forum | Library | GO Command |
|---|---|---|---|
| **The Librarian** (LIBRAR.SIT) | Apple HyperCard Forum | 1 | GO APPHYP |
| Freeware designed to help retrieve and organize data stored in CompuServe forum libraries or display databases that follow the standard CompuServe library format. Requires Stuffit to download. Can import files directly from forum libraries with CompuServe Navigator's search utility. | | | |
| **Texas** (TEXAS2.SIT) | Apple HyperCard Forum | 6 | GO APPHYP |
| Free-text database that creates an index for every word in a file, and allows you to see a list of each phrase in which a chosen word appears. Requires Stuffit to download. | | | |
| **Tex** (TEX51.SIT) | Apple HyperCard Forum | 6 | GO APPHYP |
| Shareware ($10 fee). Faster version of Texas. Requires Stuffit to download. | | | |
| **Stuffit** (STUFFI.BIN) | Macintosh Productivity Forum | 8 | GO MACPRO |
| Freeware. Decompression utility required to download and activate software from CompuServe forum libraries. | | | |

Dyson, editor and publisher of the highly regarded newsletter *Release 2.0*, doesn't require such programs in her work, she considers Persoft's Eyes and Lotus's Agenda the "most interesting" of text-retrieval software. Both will "automatically structure downloaded information," she says.

Eyes is probably the closest thing on the general market to Verity's Topic for IBM PCs and compatibles. Like several similar programs, such as AskSam and Xyindex, Eyes creates an index of every word in the retrieved files, according to Eyes Product Manager David Haskin. But it then goes one step further and creates an outline of those files for faster retrieval.

For example, Haskin downloaded all 16,000 to 17,000 programs from CompuServe's IBM Applications Forum. After he told Eyes to break down these programs by heading, his search for "word processing" gave him 270 files, still too large to manage. But Eyes' subdivided outline of those 270 files helped narrow his search by showing, for instance, 51 files under the subcategory "text," which he entered to narrow his search even further. Eyes retails for $495 and requires 512K memory.

With Agenda, a CompuServe user would most likely download ASCII files into communications software, then use Agenda's "Text to Stf" conversion utility, which translates the ASCII file into a form that can be easily imported into Agenda for manipulation and management, according to Lotus' Jeanne Heston. You would first create definition files used by "Text to Stf" to break down the ASCII files. The utility does this by matching keywords in the definition files with the text in the downloaded files. Once in Agenda, you can create categories through which the software organizes the imported files. Agenda sells for $395 and requires 540K memory on IBM PCs and compatibles.

### Programs for Downloading

For Mac users, two HyperCard stacks are available in the Apple Hyper Forum, Library 6. The Librarian is free, and is designed specifically to serve CompuServe users wanting to organize and retrieve programs stored in forum libraries. As such, it can do its job only with databases that follow the standard CompuServe library format, says Apple Hyper Forum's Secondary Administrator Bill Cook. The Librarian requires Stuffit (see accompanying table) and can import files directly from forum libraries or from CompuServe Navigator's search utility.

Two versions of the other HyperCard stack that can be found in Apple Hyper Forum's Library 6 are Texas, which is free, and the updated version of Tex, which requires a $10 shareware fee. (Tex is faster.) Both versions, Cook says, create an index for every word in the file and provide a context for each word by the phrase containing it. Tex is "close to a hypertext search tool, but not quite," Cook says. But it is "certainly a free-text database."

*Pat Soberanis, editor and publisher of* EditSpeak: The Resource for Magazine Editors, *is a free-lance writer based in San Francisco. Her CompuServe User ID number is 76004,2341.*

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# James Meyer

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James Meyer is a fictional character.
However, this scenario is based on an actual client application.

# TI-99/4A Lives On!

## *An Orphan Survives with Help of Loyal Users, Vendors*

*by Joel Dreyfuss*

One nightmare haunts the consciousness of computer users who skate on the cutting edge of technology: to wake up one morning and discover that the manufacturer has stopped making their beloved machine. Such abandonment may be inevitable in the fast-changing world of computers, but it doesn't soften the blow. Those who cut their teeth on CP/M-based Osbornes and Kaypros were soon cast adrift in the surging tide of MS/DOS. In turn, quite a few owners of Eagles, Victors and Columbia personal computers found themselves abandoned when those companies went bankrupt.

The most famous—and most widely used—orphan computer of all may be the Texas Instruments TI-99/4A, launched 10 years ago as the chip maker's entry into the fledgling market for personal computers. With comedian Bill Cosby as spokesman, Texas Instruments made some 3 million of the little slab-like machines during a four-year period before getting caught up in a price-cutting war it couldn't win.

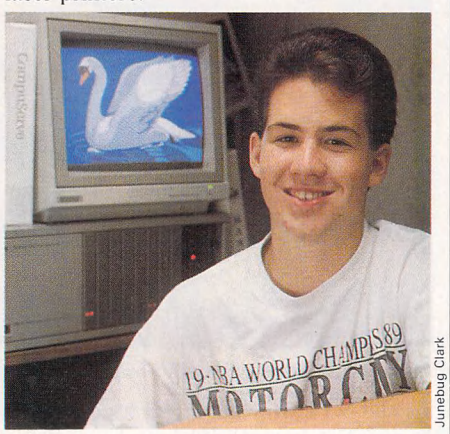
In December 1983, TI announced it would stop making the TI-99/4A. For thousands of users, the nightmare had come true: They were out in the cold.

But the 99 lives! There's no better proof than the Texas Instruments Forum (GO TIFORUM), where "99" diehards share information about equipment, software and technical problems, and track user group meetings in the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia.

Since abandonment made the 99 by necessity a hacker's machine, it isn't surprising that programming languages dominate the forum's libraries: Forth, C, Assembly, BASIC, Pascal and P-system. But there also are games, utilities and music programs. The TI Forum bristles with advice for the beginner who has just dusted off an old 99, but it also will guide the expert through a complex programming problem.

No doubt, the large number of machines produced by TI created a user base large enough to assure the computer's survival and guarantee profits to the companies who service 99 users. So does the 99's sturdiness. Texas Instruments was a military contractor and the 99 was built to meet military specifications. "It could probably take two hits of a .50-caliber machine gun and survive," says Jim Horn, a Rockville, Md., resident who administers the forum. Horn, who is retired from the military, is one of many users who first came across the 99 in a PX and fell in love with it.

The 99 was more than tough. It was an advanced machine for 1979: a 16-bit computer when Apple IIs and CP/M machines used 8-bit chips and long before the PC was a gleam in IBM's eye. Initially it was a modest machine with 16K RAM, 72K of ROM, a built-in operating system and a cartridge slot, but TI soon introduced an expansion box that gave the 99 a future. The box had eight slots and the capacity to control disk drives. Horn estimates that 80 expansion cards are now available and that users hook up everything from external hard disks to laser printers.




Junebug Clark

**Dispenses expert TI advice:** *Beebe*

Unlike the fate of most orphan computers, a number of companies still actively support the 99: Myarc, a New Jersey manufacturer, makes the Geneve card, which gives the 99 an 80-column display, extended memory and advanced graphics. Asguard, a Maryland software distributor, has introduced 25 software products for the 99; Triton, a distributor owned by software giant Ashton-Tate, carries products for the 99, including a version of Microsoft's Multiplan spreadsheet that sells for $18. Even TI, the original maker, provides some support. According to users, the company will repair the interface box that connects the 99 to a television set.

Another reason for the 99's resilience is the constantly evolving base of new young users who turn up those strange little slabs. "We call them third-generation users," says Horn. "But the first and second generations never opened the box." To a beginning computerphile, the 99's first attraction is price; a shrink-wrapped 99 console sells for $75; you can pick up a used 99 for about $25 at a computer fair, and as little as $5 at a yard sale.

Matt Beebe is one of those "third generation" users, a 15-year-old who often dispenses expert advice on the forum. Beebe, who lives in Millford, Mich., 50 miles northwest of Detroit, got his "4A" in 1980 when he was just seven. He started with games and simple programming and expanded his machine for word processing when he reached junior high school. He later added a modem and a CompuServe subscription.

Beebe, who helps out on the TI Forum, estimates that he spends 20 hours a week online writing messages and answering questions. His age has never been an issue: "On CompuServe nobody ever thinks to ask how old you are," he says.

Beebe, who takes computer classes in high school, had a big decision to make last year: Should he switch to an IBM PC? He evaluated the costs and decided to stick with the 99. "The IBM would have cost twice as much and not given me much more except—maybe—a better word processor," he concluded. He added a Geneve card and color monitor (512 by 640 resolution) and is working on some software he hopes to sell commercially. He does offer a backhanded compliment to the IBM PC he uses at school. "It's really nice," he says. "You can do just about anything you can do on the 99/4A."

His loyalty is typical of 99ers. They scrounge the junkyards for machines, travel hundreds of miles to user group meetings and fiercely defend their aging machines against the adoration of the newer and better that dominates the world of computers.

Horn has his own pet project. He wants to rescue the thousands of 99s gathering dust in closets and basements and get them into the hands of the many children who don't own their own computers. One teacher who obtained a number of 99s reported important gains when she allowed students to take their computers home, something she couldn't do with more expensive machines.

Horn tries to explain that fierce cult-like allegiance of 99ers. "We've been out on the limb since December 1983," he says. "We're a community. It's wonderful to enjoy the freedom that being an orphan gives you. Nobody's going to rescue you." For those loyal 99ers, the TI Forum on CompuServe is the lifeline to a world of support.

*Joel Dreyfuss, who covers the computer industry for* Fortune, *has a Kaypro II in his closet.*

# High-Touch Presence: WordStar Adopts Forum

*by Harry Green*

In his book *Megatrends*, author John Naisbitt states that high-tech companies need a counterbalancing human element, which he calls "high touch."

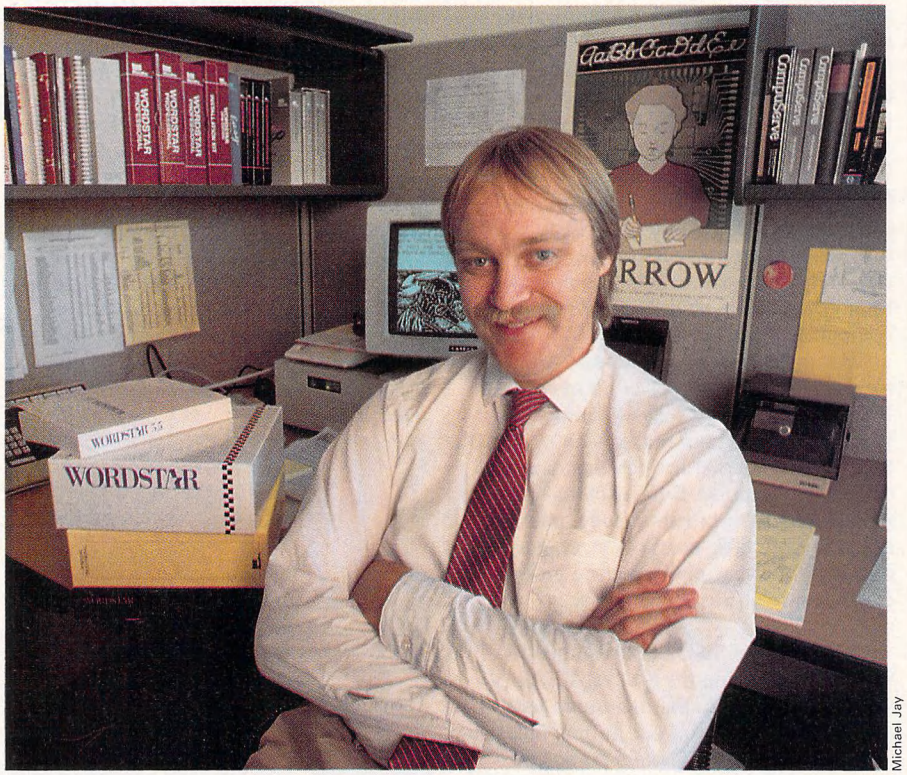
WordStar International, formerly MicroPro International, has always been a high-tech company, entering the market in 1979 with a word processor that for years was virtually the standard of the microcomputer industry. (In case you missed it, MicroPro changed its name recently to capitalize on the fact that its flagship product, WordStar, is practically a household name.) Now WordStar is increasing its high-touch presence by directly operating the WordStar Forum, which was previously known as the MicroPro Forum.

In February, James Burton became the WordStar Forum administrator, which is his full-time job with WSI. Burton wants to preserve the spirit that has always existed in the forum, "frank, open and honest, with many members who are extremely skilled, technically oriented and prime users of the product." Burton doesn't want to take anything from the forum—he plans to build on what it already is.

Although the messages on the forum aren't always the kind the WSI staff wants to hear, Burton says they welcome any messages that contain constructive criticism. "We're always looking to improve the WordStar product," Burton says, "and the forum is an important source of feedback." Even though not all comments and suggestions are incorporated into the product, they are considered an important source of information for future developments.

Burton is pleased with the way the forum has progressed in recent months. Traffic has about doubled since WSI took over, helped by the introduction of WordStar 5.5, which has generated a lot of activity. Burton's objective is to preserve the character of the forum as a freewheeling place where users can meet to exchange ideas, but now with a difference: They have direct access to the company. He expects activity in the forum to continue to increase, aided by WordStar's inclusion of a CompuServe introductory package in the product. He also foresees a greater WSI involvement in the forum libraries.

Presently, the forum has 13 libraries, of which 12 are open to the public. The WordStar 5.n library is by far the most active in terms of numbers of files and accesses in the libraries. Running second in activity is the WordStar 5 Printer library, which contains printer drivers and fixes that have not yet been incorporated into the product. There is an Old WordStar library that contains files dating back to 1983, and a pair of libraries that provide WordStar 2000 product and printer information.




Michael Jay

**Always looking for ways to improve WordStar:** *Burton*

The company recruited many of its WordStar 5.5 beta-testers from the forum, and a substantial part of the beta-testing activity was conducted over a closed forum section. The testers sent files and comments to the company and received fixes with a turnaround time that could not have been equaled with any other medium. Many comments, such as suggestions for changes to the command set and commands for the new style sheet feature, were suggested by beta-testers and incorporated into the product.

Having just released a new WordStar package, the company is not making announcements about the next one yet, but Burton expects to see a future enhancement, which many forum members have been requesting. Users will, in a future release, be able to hide the dot commands that WordStar uses for formatting. Beyond that, he's not saying, but if you want to register your opinion, the forum is the place to do so.

WordStar may have lost market share in the past few years, but it has a loyal following that has no plans to switch. With all the word processors on the market, what is WordStar's attraction? Besides the users who wear WordStar as comfortably as an old shoe, there is the product's primary market: the person who knows how to type but doesn't necessarily understand computers. "We're the word processor for touch typists," says Burton. "People who learned touch typing were trained to type at high speed with their fingers on the home keys." Unlike other word processors that make extensive use of function keys and mice, WordStar is a keyboard-oriented program that, in Burton's words, "fits the touch-typist like a glove."

With the introduction of its newest product, WordStar remains high tech. With its adoption of the forum, the company is also increasingly high touch. Visit the forum by typing GO WORDSTAR at any CompuServe prompt to see for yourself.

*Harry Green is president of Pacific Netcom Inc., a Portland, Ore., firm that consults with businesses on using office automation and telecommunications to improve productivity. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,431.*

## Wired in to Support: Novell Customers

*by Denys Bondeville*

Novell has confirmed its leadership position in the local area network marketplace this year. Due to this success, Novell has modified its NetWire service on CompuServe to keep up with the increasing and varied information needs of customers.

NetWire's purpose is to provide information about Novell's networking products, both hardware and software. It functions as an efficient alternative to toll-free phone hotline support. And now, since the NetWire online surcharge has been dropped, it is more cost-effective for users of Novell products.

Novell company representatives have become more involved in the management of NetWire, providing a direct link between customers and Novell. A technical support group is dedicated to monitoring the Novell forums in NetWire to answer questions from users online. NetWire's forum administrators get assistance from Novell's full-time technical support representatives as well as the latest information about such products as NetWare, Novell's LAN software.

Another major change is the restructuring of the Novell forums into the Novell Hardware Forum (GO NOVHARD), and the Novell Software Forum (GO NOVSOFT). This reorganization separates the forums into two distinct areas, making it easier for customers to ask questions about specific subjects, according to Jamie Sanders, the NetWire specialist in Novell's Sales and Service Group. NetWire has become "a tool that can provide support and service to NetWare owners anytime.

*NetWire has the power to disseminate information to customers worldwide the day it is released.*

It is our charter to provide customers with the most accurate, up-to-date information to help in their decision-making."

The Novell Hardware Forum covers hardware, communications and support topics. It has 17 message subtopics, including Shell and Workstation, Ethernet, Printing and Printers, TCP/IP and X.25. NetWare owners can use this forum to find answers to questions concerning hardware. For example, in the "User Groups and Training" subtopic, members can find information about the NetWare community and particularly on the NetWare International Users' Group. The "Urgent Help Needed" subtopic is appropriately titled—here any question will be treated with priority by the NetWire administrators.

The Novell Software Forum also has 17 message subtopics, covering NetWare and other helpful software. Previously, NetWire had libraries in both forums, making it difficult to determine where a particular file was located. Now you can find all the files you need in the Novell Software Forum.

Members will find all Novell-related files available for downloading in the 17 Novell Software Forum library sections. Contents range from textfiles of specifications and explanations to patches and applications related to NetWare. Novell Software Forum supports versions and variations of NetWare for different computers. Because one of the main characteristics of Novell is to promote the development of applications by third-party companies, these applications also are supported.

The new structure of the NetWire area incorporates another idea, based on its high level of message board activity or "scroll rate" (how quickly messages scroll off as new messages come in). Since a forum can keep a limited number of messages at a time, having two forums doubles the number of messages that can be stored. This ensures that the response to a message will still be there even if a member cannot access the forum for a few days.

Novell's increased involvement in NetWire serves as a guarantee of quality and success to CompuServe members who need information about Novell and its products. To access NetWire, type GO NOVELL at any CompuServe prompt.

*Denys Bondeville, senior editor at* PC-Informatique, *is based in Paris. His CompuServe User ID number is 76004,2350.*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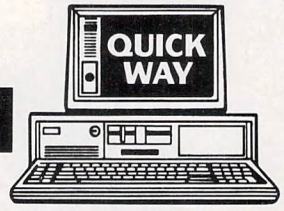


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GO OLI for more information.

# Going Online with 220 Horsepower

When you sit in the driver's seat of a Ford Taurus SHO, you ***key in*** to a very exciting driving experience.

Your ***processor*** is a fuel-injected 24-valve, V-6 engine with double overhead cams. The result: a 220 horsepower ***hard drive*** that delivers the Super High Output which gives Taurus SHO its name.

Consider, for example, 4-wheel independent sport-tuned suspension and 4-wheel disc brakes. Add performance instrumentation, articulated sport seats and aerodynamic ground effects, and you're ready for some great driving.

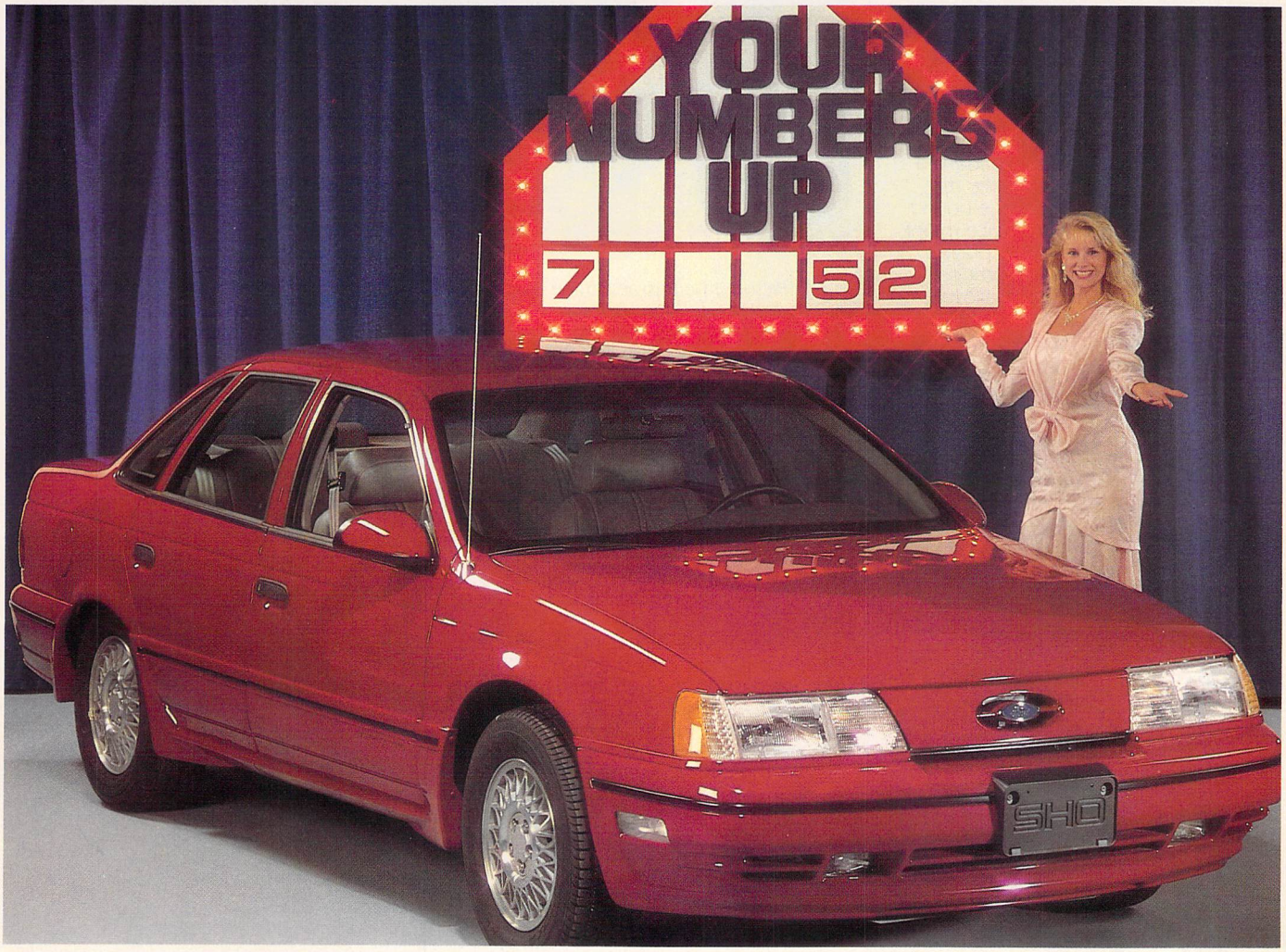
The Ford Taurus SHO—for those who feel driving should be more fun than just getting there.

## Ford Taurus SHO

**Have you driven a Ford...lately?** Ford

# Go Mall

A GUIDE TO COMPUSERVE'S ELECTRONIC MALL® SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1989




## You could win a new 1990 Ford Taurus SHO, if "Your Number's Up!"

THE ELECTRONIC MALL®

**MacWarehouse, the largest computing resource for the Macs.**

**Tap untapped financial aid through Educational Advisory Services.**

**Strengthen your clout in the kitchen with The Chef's Catalog.**

**Halloween tricks & treats.**

## DEAR SHOPPER

Dear Shopper:

Maybe you're like me and have never won anything in your life. Enter The Mall's fourth annual "Your Number's Up!" contest, and you might change the course of your luck. There are hundreds of prizes, and you can enter every week for eight consecutive weeks. Who knows? You could walk away with a hot new book, super software or a CompuServe usage credit. Or you could drive away with the grand prize—a 1990 Ford Taurus SHO, compliments of Ford Division and Ford Motor Co.

AM/PM Music & Video has a new contest, too. Correctly predict the Country Music Award winners, and you could win an autographed CD from Randy Travis or K.D. Lang, among others.

There are several new stores opening their doors at The Mall this fall. Macintosh owners can max out on Macs at MacWarehouse. The Chef's Catalog is a culinary expert's source for cuisine machines. And if you have a college-bound child, Educational Advisory Service might be the answer to your financial prayers.

Fall also means back-to-school days, Grandparents' Day and Halloween.

Take a leisurely stroll through The Electronic Mall, where we have you covered on all fronts.

Electronically yours,

Cindy Morgan

Cindy Morgan

## GOINGS-ON: MALLWIDE

### Close encounters of the CompuServe kind.

Ahn Sang-Soo, a CompuServe member from Seoul, Korea, frequently orders CDs from Windham Hill's Mall store. Last May, while attending the American Bookseller's Convention in Washington, D.C., Sang-Soo, an art director by trade, was surprised to find the Windham Hill folk in attendance.

Pictured here is an offline gathering of online friends: Patty Belknap of Windham Hill; Cindy Morgan, editor of *Go Mall*; Tuck & Patti and Phil Aaberg, Windham Hill recording artists; and Ahn Sang-Soo, Electronic Mall shopper.

Another Mall shopper, David Shelton of New Orleans, recently paid an in-person visit to Mall merchant Rod Mourant of Alaska's Ivory Cache in Douglas, Alaska. Shelton, who was on a Princess Line cruise, reports that it was fun meeting the person behind the Easy-Plex number. (He recommends Alaska's Ivory Cache's salmon packs and reindeer meat.)

Several Mall merchants would be delighted if you stopped by to say "hello." If you're passing through Florida, Indian River Citrus (GO IR) will take you on a tour of its citrus groves. And if you find yourself in Holland, Williams & Eeden Garden Center (GO WE) will let you tiptoe through the tulips.

### Shop by catalog this Christmastime, or anytime.

Wondering what's new and different this fall? Ready to start your Christmas shopping? Make your first stop at The Mall's Catalog of Catalogs, a comprehensive listing of print catalogs and brochures, many of them free, that can be ordered online. Show good taste with delectables from Godiva Chocolate, Rent Mother Nature or Simon David. Give your computer an upgrade with an array of add-ons and accessories found in the catalogs of CDA Computer Sales or MacWarehouse.

View the new 1990 auto line-ups from your couch with colorful brochures from Buick Magazine, The Chevrolet Showroom, Ford Motor Co. and Nissan. Build a wardrobe with Apparel Concepts for Men, a home library with Penguin Books or a home sight-and-sound system with Heathkit. And that's just for starters! To browse the Catalog of Catalogs, GO MALL.

### Seven clubs offer online sign-up.

Seven clubs offer shoppers the opportunity to sign up online. Enjoy the convenience and savings club membership offers. Music mavens should check out the CD Club (GO CD), Classical Music Club (GO CM), and Record and Tape Club (GO RT). If you own a VCR, stop by Video Club (GO VC). Personal computer owners should pay a visit to Small Computer Book Club (GO BK) and Time-Life Books (GO TL). Finally, you can save substantially with membership in Shoppers Advantage Club (GO SAC), no matter your shopping needs.

Visit The Mall for details!

## THE ELECTRONIC LETTERBOX

### Changing the game.

Dear Software Discounters:

I came home today and there was the package, just *one week* after I'd placed an order. Your service is unbelievable! The disk cases are great and the new game has already replaced *Tetris* as "top dog." Thanks again.

*Marge V.*
*Richmond Hill, N.Y.*

### Keeping up with the Fords.

Dear Ford:

Occasionally, I like to send a note as well as browse through the showrooms and racing section. This kind of networking is a neat way of communicating.

It enables me to maintain a momentum, keep up on the status quo and recognize the entrepreneurial spirit at Ford. So long for now.

*Dan S.*
*Plymouth, Mich.*

### An entertaining, educational theft.

Dear Electronic Mall:

CompuServe is better than ever. Playing *To Catch a Thief* was quite fun and informative. Thanks.

*Winston S.*
*Ft. Worth, Texas*

Go Mall

***Go Mall*, September/October 1989**
**Volume 3 Number 5**

*Go Mall* is published bimonthly by The Electronic Mall®, a service of the Electronic Mall Group, CompuServe Incorporated. For more information, call 614/457-8600, or send an EasyPlex to 70007,1610. Editors: Cindy Morgan, Kirk Donnan and Kassie Rose.

# Drive home in a 1990 Ford Taurus SHO, if "Your Number's Up!"

Welcome to The Mall's fourth annual "Your Number's Up!" contest. This year, hundreds of shoppers will win exciting prizes donated by Mall merchants. And one lucky member will drive away with the grand prize, a new 1990 Taurus SHO, compliments of Ford Division and Ford Motor Co.

Imagine a sleek five-passenger, four-door sedan with a sophisticated Super High Output (SHO), fuel injected, 24 valve, 220 horsepower V-6 engine and four-wheel independent sport-tuned suspension. One with four-wheel anti-lock disc brakes, articulated sport seats, performance instrumentation and sleek aerodynamic body moldings. A car that includes loads of extras, such as tinted glass, air conditioning, a high-level audio system, power side windows and door locks, tilt steering and more. It's the new 1990 Ford Taurus SHO.

The key could be yours ... if Your Number's Up!

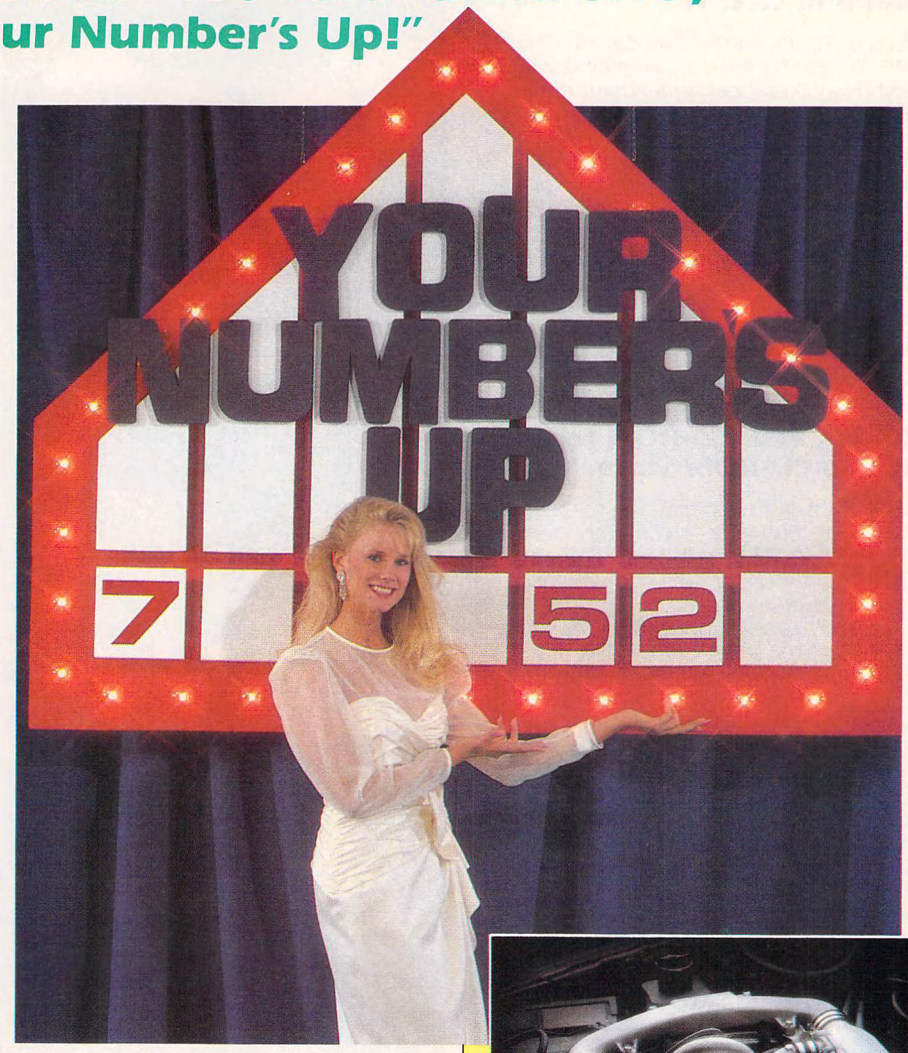
**How to play.**
Beginning Monday, Sept. 4, you'll have a shot at the driver's seat—and at hundreds of valuable Mall prizes. Entering couldn't be easier. Visit The Electronic Mall (GO MALL) and select "Your Number's Up!" from the main menu. Answer one question about The Mall and fill in the official electronic entry form. That's it.

Every Sunday, we'll randomly select 30 winning CompuServe User ID numbers. They will be posted online at approximately 5 p.m. on Monday. If "Your Number's Up!" you're eligible to pick the prize of your choice from The Electronic Prize Showcase. Select from gourmet coffees and foods, sizzling new books and CDs ... even CompuServe usage credits.

**Enter every week for eight consecutive weeks.**
You can enter again every week for eight consecutive weeks. That's eight chances to win one of hundreds of prizes, and to secure a shot at the car!

**And the proud owner of a new Taurus SHO is ...**
All who enter the weekly drawings, win or lose, are eligible for the Taurus SHO drawing. On Monday, Oct. 30, one User ID number will be selected at random from all valid entries received since Sept. 4. Someone will be driving a dream when the new decade dawns. Could it be you?

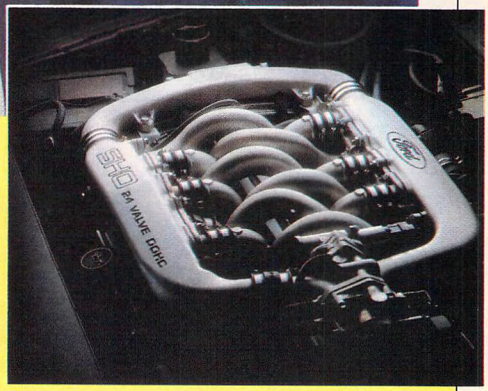
For complete contest rules and regulations, GO MALL and select "Your Number's Up!"




**Electronic Prize Showcase: the abridged version.**
Weekly winners of "Your Number's Up!" can choose from hundreds of prizes, including:

- A Toshiba CD-ROM drive worth more than $1,000, compliments of The CD-ROM Store
- "Dreams," by The Allman Brothers. A 4-CD set featuring 55 tracks. Over five hours of music! Includes a 40-page color booklet. Compliments of AM/PM Music & Video
- *West of Eden: The End of Innocence at Apple Computer* by Frank Rose. Compliments of Penguin Books.
- A personalized computer mouse pad, compliments of Executive Stamper
- A Remin Kartabag tubular folding aluminum luggage cart, compliments of Sharon Luggage & Gifts
- CheckFree Servisware. Complete software and subscription for check-free banking! Compliments of CheckFree
- Executive auto mug. Select from Audi, BMW, Jaguar and more. Compliments of Executive Depot.

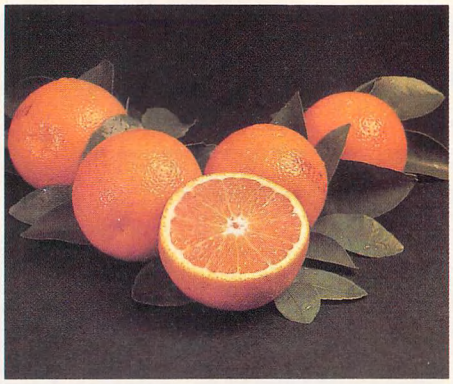
All prizes are first come, first serve!




**1990 Taurus SHO performance specifications**

- 3.0 liter V-6 engine with 24 valves and dual overhead cams
- P215/65VR15 tires
- Accelerates from 0 to 60 mph in just 7.3 seconds
- Each cylinder's two 35mm intake and two 30mm exhaust valves promote high-flow/velocity breathing, efficient combustion
- Equipped with a sequential multiport fuel injection system governed by Ford's advanced EEC-IV computer
- Available options include leather seating surfaces, the Ford JBL Audio System, and a keyless entry system

## Florida's finest on sale starting Oct. 1.



Shop early and save at Florida Fruit Shippers. A new fall catalog, brimming with fresh Florida oranges, grapefruits, tropical fruits, seafood and other specialties will be available beginning Oct. 1.

All orders placed before Nov. 15 qualify for an automatic 10 percent discount, which includes holiday orders with "desired delivery dates" in December.

To wrap up your holiday gift-giving for less, GO FFS.

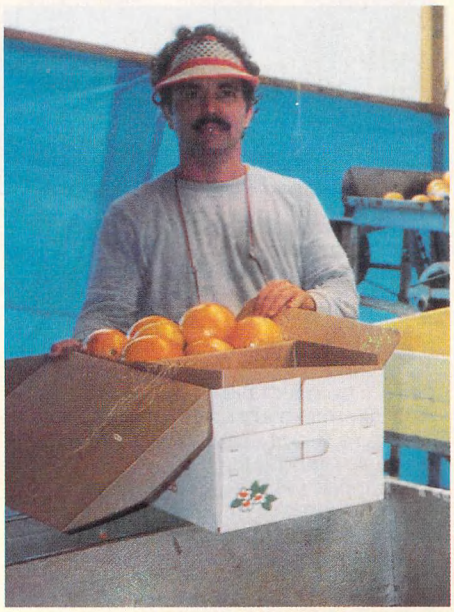
## *New!* Catch CD-ROM fever at The CD-ROM Store.

CD-ROM is fast becoming the format of choice for sophisticated computer owners. At The CD-ROM Store™, you'll find an array of products for everyone whether a newcomer or an expert.

For example, the Toshiba XM-3201B drive and 5100 series of CD-ROM drives are featured at considerable savings to CompuServe members. If you've been waiting for prices to come down, your wait is over. Other featured products include: *Public Domain Software*, featuring more than 250 megabytes of the finest bulletin board threads available for the Macintosh; CD-ROM Developer's Toolkit; *Hypersearch*; and *ElectroMap World Atlas*, a computer-based atlas for the IBM PC and compatibles.

To catch CD-ROM fever, GO RS.

*The CD-ROM Store's grand-opening, free-connect weekend: Sept. 9,10.*

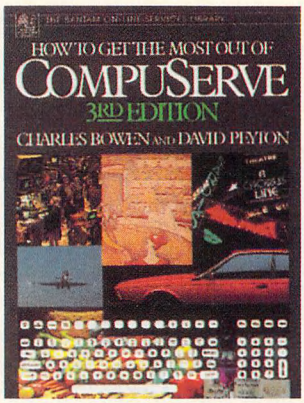


## Meet Danny Spencer, citrus specialist

Meet Danny Spencer, grove owner, fruit picker and fruit expert extraordinaire. Drop by Indian River Citrus and read an online interview with this Wharton MBA/Philadelphia businessman-turned-Florida grove owner. Danny explains why there's no place on earth like the Indian River for growing oranges and grapefruit. (Next time you're in Florida, you're welcome to stop in and amble through the groves with him.)

Stroll through Indian River's online store for a selection of grove-fresh navels and grapefruit fresh from Florida. Quarter-, half- and full bushels are available. Or opt for the Deluxe Sampler, 6 to 8 pounds of fruit, plus two jars of tropical fruit marmalades. All orders include a complimentary citrus recipe book and a beautiful greeting card.

To meet Danny, GO IR.




## Shop Walden *Computer* Books, free, every weekend for two months.

Stop the presses! Walden *Computer* Books offers free connect in its Mall store every weekend in September and October. Browse the online shelves stocked with hundreds of computer books. There's something for you—whether you're a PC neophyte or an old computer pro.

New titles are here, along with backlist titles like David Peyton and Charles Bowen's *How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe, Third Edition*. You'll also find books covering most popular software packages, including WordPerfect 5.0, Lotus 1-2-3 and MS-DOS, as well as how-to primers on spreadsheets, programming and desktop publishing.

Remember, connect time is free every Saturday and Sunday this fall.
GO WB

## *New!* Computer Mart for IBMs and compatibles.

Attention, owners of IBM PCs and compatibles: The Computer Mart, an online branch of Atlanta-based Peripheral Design, is open on The Mall. Shop for deals on microcomputers, peripherals, software and more from AST, Hayes, Hewlett-Packard, Intel, NEC, Novell, Okidata and Panasonic. The Computer Mart features brand names at competitive prices.

For example, four laptops from Toshiba are offered. One is priced below $900! Find printers, monitors, hard disk drives and enhancement cards. Order more than 40 software packages online, including WordPerfect 5.0, PC Paintbrush and Symphony version 2.0.

Other featured products include a Hercules VGA Card and Local Area Network Products from Novell, Tops, Waterloo and others. All orders received are shipped within 48 hours and carry The Computer Mart's satisfaction guarantee.
GO PD

*The Computer Mart's grand-opening, free-connect weekends: Sept. 9, 10 and Oct. 7, 8.*

# AUTOQUOT-R™

**Buy two, get one free.**
In the market for a new car? Make your first stop at Autoquot-R®. This September only, buy two Autoquotes and get a third absolutely free. Each Autoquote provides the manufacturer's retail pricing, and, more important, the dealer invoice pricing on the base model and all option packages for almost any new automobile.

Armed with these reports, you can save hundreds of dollars on your next new car purchase.

From Autoquot-R. GO AQ

**A phone that quacks calls.**
The animated quacking duck phone. Modeled like traditional duck decoys, this telephone alerts you to an incoming call with a series of quacks rather than with a ring. Its beak moves in sync to the quacking sound.

From Hammacher Schlemmer. GO HS99

Only $89.50

**Exercise more for less.**
The Precor 614 Rower. No other rowing machine matches Precor's 614 for features and price. Adjustable resistance customizes every workout. Length: 50 inches, width: 30 inches.

From Push Pedal Pull. GO PPP99

Only $229

**Coffee, Italian style.**
Krups Mini Espresso/Cappuccino Maker. An affordable alternative to coffeehouse espresso machines.

From Coffee Anyone ??? GO COF

Only $98.95

**Music markdown on disks, cassettes.**
A huge selection of CDs for only $9.99 each. Classic favorites from MCA, Capitol and EMI. Also, a varied assortment of cassettes for only $4.99 each from Warner, Elektra and Atlantic.

From AM/PM Music Video. GO AM

$4.99 cassette & $9.99 CDs

**The rig that leaves salmon open-mouthed.**
G. Loomis® salmon steelhead rig. Premier graphite baitcasting rod, matched with Garcia Ambassadeur® classic model 6500c baitcasting reel. Excellent rig for salmon, steelhead or striper, as well as shore, pier and jetty fishing, in both fresh and saltwater.

From Outdoor Outfitters. GO OO99

List Price: $224

$199

**The best deal yet on diskettes.**
Flash! Direct Micro has slashed prices again. 3.5-inch DS/DD diskettes now only 69 cents each for 100 or more, 79 cents each for 10 or more. GO DM99

From 69¢

## MacWarehouse, largest computing resource to the Macs.

At this new Mall store you'll find everything for your Mac—from accelerators to the Z88 computer—at prices way below suggested retail.

More than a thousand items are stocked electronically: Word Processing programs, including Ashton-Tate's FullWrite and Microsoft's Word 4.0; desktop publishing programs such as Aldus' PageMaker 3.0; and graphics and design packages such as Adobe Illustrator. Look for the largest selection of scanners, keyboards and hard disk drives; database managers and business software, utilities, languages, games and more!

**$3 overnight delivery.**
Shopping for your Mac has never been easier or faster. Virtually every purchase is shipped to you overnight by Airborne Express for only $3. Place your order by 7 p.m. Eastern time any weekday and your order will be at your doorstep the next day. Now that's service!

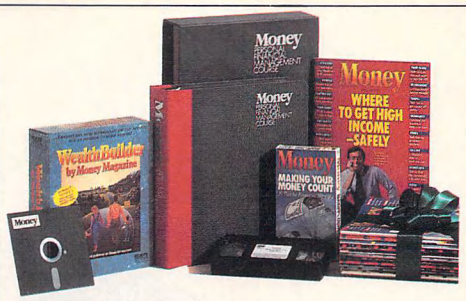
**Free technical support, free offers, free shopping.**
Every item MacWarehouse sells comes with a 120-day MacWarehouse guarantee. Fast, informed, free technical support is only a toll-free call or an EasyPlex away. To top it off, make any purchase online and MacWarehouse has a free offer for you—The Power User's Tool Kit, a disk containing 17 of the best shareware programs available to you today. You pay only $1.50 postage and handling with any order.

### Late News Flash!

Coming soon—Micro-Warehouse. Watch for grand-opening news online in "This Week's Mall News" and "What's New."

For more for your Mac for your money, GO MW.

*MacWarehouse's grand-opening, free-connect weekends: Sept. 16, 17 and Oct. 14, 15, 28, 29.*




## Find dynamic money management tools at Money's Financial Market.

At Money's Financial Market, you'll find a set of financial-management tools designed to provide you with the information, skills and systems to invest, diversify, acquire, retire, pay less to the IRS and keep your money working as hard as you do.

*Money* magazine, for example, brings you a balanced perspective on economic trends and how they affect you. Guides on how to plan for a college education, a second home or retirement. Subscribe online and get a year's subscription (13 issues) for only $29.95, a savings of more than 20 percent off the cover price.

Or consider Money's Wealthbuilder Financial Software for the IBM PC, compatibles and the Macintosh. It's a state-of-the-art system that tailors a full financial strategy to your family's needs and your own tolerance for risk. A special preview disk is available for only $9.95. Also offered online are The Money Course, a step-by-step guide to financial management, and Making Your Money Count, a 54-minute video of money-making, money-saving tips.

To start making your money work harder for you, GO MFM.

*Money's Financial Market's grand-opening, free-shopping weekend: Sept. 9 and 10.*

## Brady Books offers new books, free gifts.

Most of us only scratch the surface of what our computers can do. For novices, it's a whole new world. Even old-hand hackers know that technology is always changing. New Mall merchant Brady Books, a division of Simon & Schuster, offers a comprehensive line of personal computer books, utilities and software, all designed to make getting along with your computer stress-free.

Browse the online selections, including new releases and best selling backlist. Featured titles include: *The Paul Mace Guide to Data Recovery*; *Peter Norton's DOS Guide, Revised & Expanded*; *Total 1-2-3 Ready to Run*; *dBASE IV for the First Time User* and *The Master Guide to CompuServe*. Brady Books features books, software and utilities designed to decipher spreadsheets, word processing, desktop publishing and more.

**Free gift for your thoughts.**
Brady Books values your opinion. Complete its short online survey and you'll receive, free of charge, a spreadsheet utility for Lotus 1-2-3, a $29.95 value. It's Brady Books' way of saying "thanks for stopping by." GO BB

*Brady Books' grand-opening, free-connect weekend: Sept. 16 and 17.*

## Tap untapped financial aid and scholarships through Educational Advisory Services.

The cost of higher education is exhorbitant. But did you know that there are more than $4 billion available in financial aid? The secret lies in knowing where to apply. Educational Advisory, a new service at The Electronic Mall, will locate from five to 25 sources of financial aid for you based on your unique needs and background, or your service fee will be refunded in full.

If you want to finance a four-year college degree, law school, medical school or another advanced degree, Educational Advisory can help. Simply complete the detailed electronic Student Data Form. You'll be asked questions about your family background, hobbies, past achievements and future goals.

Educational Adivsory then feeds the information into its computers programmed with data on available financial aid. You receive a computerized report with at least five sources for financial aid. Each listing normally includes the name and address of the source, its monetary worth and eligibility requirements.

To put higher education within reach, GO EA.

*Educational Advisory's grand-opening, free-shopping weekend: Sept. 23 and 24.*

## Miltrobe opens electronics emporium.

Mosquitoes. Black flies. Rats. Drive them all away electronically with Ultrasonic Pest Control, a device that repels pests by emitting ultrasonic sounds inaudible to the human ear. It's one of many items available at new Mall merchant Miltrobe.

At Miltrobe, you'll discover an electronics emporium. An array of items for home and office, as well as tools, luggage and hobby accessories are stocked online. Featured items include a Sanyo compact microwave; and the Griller from Royal, a smokeless indoor grill.

Also to keep people talking: a selection of telephone products from Southwestern Bell, such as the Step-Up Cordless Freedom Phone, tool kits and items suitable for gift-giving.

Consider the Fisher Commemorative space pen. Write with the pen that wrote on the moon with this limited-edition set marking the 20th anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing.

Order Miltrobe's extensive, four-color catalog. Browse through it at your leisure offline, then place your order quickly and conveniently online. GO MI

*Miltrobe's grand-opening, free-connect weekend: Oct. 7 and 8.*

## *Business Week* and *Business Week International* deliver a global business perspective.

From fusion to fashion, corporate raiders to inside traders, *Business Week* and *Business Week International* have the full story. An award-winning staff of journalists delivers the big picture on what's happening domestically and worldwide, every week. Crisis in China. Eastern's bellyflop. Steve Job's NeXT step. Plus annual special reports, including *The Best Mutual Funds* and the *1990 Investment Outlook.*

### A reputation for excellence.

Both magazines have consistently won some of the world's most prestigious journalism awards, and maintain an unparalled reputation among readers and the nation's leaders. Inside, you'll meet those at the helm of the world's largest corporations and the mavericks behind many entrepreneurial enterprises.

For a taste of what to expect, visit their new Mall location. Enjoy special subscription rates in celebration of *Business Week's* 60th anniversary. And for those US executives who can't afford to wait for the news, there's an all-new delivery service: Exec-Air overnight delivery.

### Get a worldwide focus on the news with *Business Week International.*

For the international executive who needs to know the US perspective of global trends and events, *Business Week* publishes special international editions for Europe, Asia and Latin America. With 1992 around the corner, keeping up with the international scene is more important than ever before. *Business Week International* delivers virtually anywhere in the world. And for your convenience, local currency pricing is available in selected countries. Watch for our *Business Week International* Executive Poll this fall! For the leader in business reporting, GO BW.

*Business Week's grand-opening, free-connect weekend: Sept. 23,24.*

## Cooks, strengthen your clout in the kitchen with The Chef's Catalog.

Looking for a hard-to-find kitchen gadget? The best in pots and pans? The latest kitchen appliances? The Chef's Catalog brings the best in all of these to you through The Mall.

At The Chef's Catalog, you can build a kitchen fit for a gourmet chef. Featured online is the same equipment the pros use, products by Cuisinart, KitchenAid, Henckels and more.

Consider the Tri-Ply stainless steel stock pot, perfect for a hearty soup or stew. Serve succulent kabobs with the Moroccan vertical grill. Prepare the perfect Pina Colada with the Waring professional kitchen blender. You also will find indoor and outdoor grills, ice cream machines, egg cookers, pasta makers, deep fryers, coffee makers and more. All are top-of-the-line, fully tested and 100 percent guaranteed.

### Cookware you won't find just anywhere.

There's cookware, too. Classic skillets, saucepans and stockpots from Le Creuset of France, Calphalon, Silverstone and others. Plus, for virtually any cooking task, find an array of gadgets, including the fabulous "spoonula," magnetic measuring cups and spoons, and a complete gadget organizer.

Explore The Chef's Catalog's online store. Or order a 56-page, full-color catalog, full of professional equipment for the home cook. (Anything from the free catalog can be ordered online, too.)

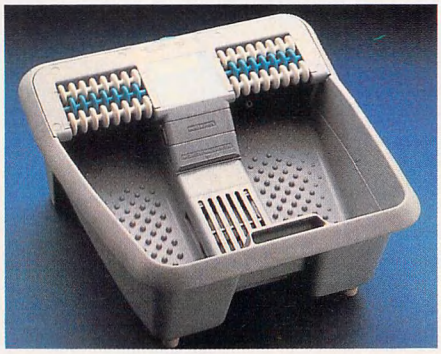
To build a kitchen with clout, GO CC.

*The Chef's Catalog's grand-opening, free-connect weekend: Sept. 16 and 17.*

## Grandparents' Day: Sunday, Sept. 10

**Griddlecake box and one-year tree lease.**
They'll remember you all year long with this one! For starters, there's a down-home breakfast: Each hand-crafted wooden box holds a pint jug of pure maple syrup, a 2-pound sack of stone-ground buttermilk-and-honey pancake mix, and one pound of tasty Canadian bacon. Your gift also includes a one-year sugar maple tree lease, with seasonal progress reports sent to your grandparents.

Then they'll get the real thing—at least 50 ounces of pure, natural, wood-fired maple syrup from the spring crop, even more when mother nature is especially bountiful. From Rent Mother Nature. GO RM99



**Footbath massage that's test-proven the best.**
Rated best in comparison tests by the Hammacher Schlemmer Institute for its superior massaging action, consistent water temperature, overall construction and ease of use.

From Hammacher Schlemmer. GO HS99

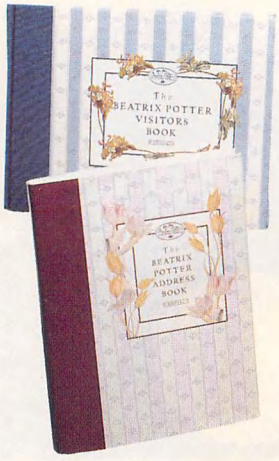
**Long-distance roses.**
One dozen of the world's finest roses, delivered overnight by Federal Express. From The Flower Stop. GO FS99

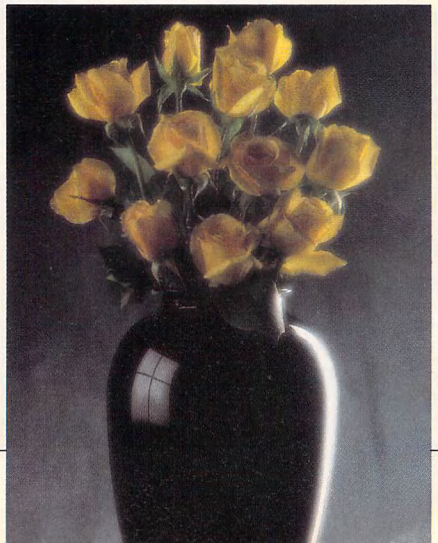
**Crabtree & Evelyn signature box.**
Attractive wood-grain gift box packed with a wide assortment, including shortbread cookies, hazelnut drum cookies, raspberry fruit tea, orchard fruit herbal tea, mini-English breakfast tea sachets, strawberry preserves, raspberry preserves and four mini-preserves. Perfect for Gramps or Gran.

From Crabtree & Evelyn. GO CR99

**The Beatrix Potter visitors book, address book.**
Elegant and easy to use, these beautiful books with flora and fauna illustrations are sure to become treasured keepsakes.

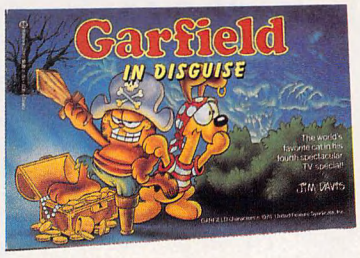
From Penguin Books. GO PB99



# HALLOWEEN TRICKS & TREATS

**Stash treats in this hippo's stomach.**
The perfect place for stashing cookies or Halloween candies.
From Simon David. GO SIM99




***Garfield in Disguise.***
By Jim Davis. From Ballantine Books.
GO BAL99

**Spine-tingling games.**
*Scared Stiff, Hot Rods* and *Ghost Toasties* horror games.
From TSR Games Shoppe. GO TSR99

**Ghostbusters' *Spirit Chasing.***
A board game that's fun for the entire family. From TSR Games Shoppe.
GO TSR99

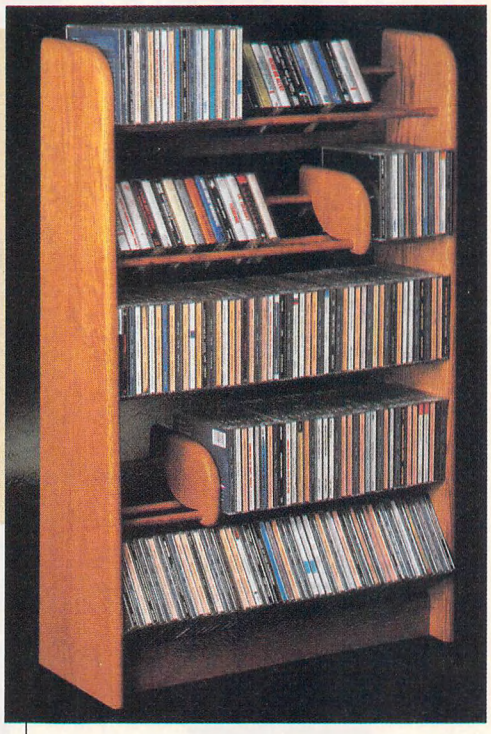
**Home horror movies.**
A selection of videos including "The Fly," "Poltergeist," "The Exorcist," "The Shining," "The Night of the Living Dead," "Friday the 13th" and "Halloween I, II and III." From AM/PM Music & Video.
GO AM99

**Garfield, the wicked witch.**
One witchy cat! From Walter Knoll Florist.
GO WK99

**The friendly ghost.**
Casper, of course! From Walter Knoll Florist. GO WK99

# WINDOWS ON THE MALL

## ART, MUSIC & VIDEO



**Organize your cassettes and CDs into libraries.**
Storage units for cassettes and CDs. A wide selection in a variety of mediums. Recommended for the serious collector is Tree Dimensions' CD/cassette/video multimedia storage unit, made of handsome oak and holding up to 260 CDs or 160 cassettes! For a high-tech look, consider the Laserline® disk holder that holds up to 48 CDs, with a black contemporary finish and a push-button release.
From AM/PM Music & Video.
GO AM99

**What's new in sound from Windham Hill.**
New releases, including Montreux's "Let Them Say," The Nylon's "Rockapella" and Tuck & Patti's "Love Warriors." From Windham Hill. GO WH

## AUTO

1990 Buick Reatta Coupe

**Build a Buick at your keyboard.**
1989 Custom Car Configurator. Pick a Buick. Check out its standard equipment. Then build your dream car by adding a Buick Value Option Package. See instantly how much your dream car will cost based on manufacturer's suggested retail price.
From Buick Magazine. GO BU

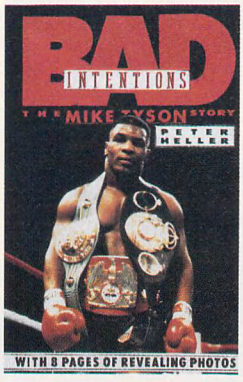
**Buy and sell classic Chevrolets online.**
The classic car lot. A free service for The Chevrolet Showroom customers. Buy and sell classic Chevrolet cars and trucks electronically. Browse the classifieds, or post your own.
GO CHV

THE Heartbeat OF AMERICA TODAY'S CHEVROLET

## BUSINESS & FINANCE

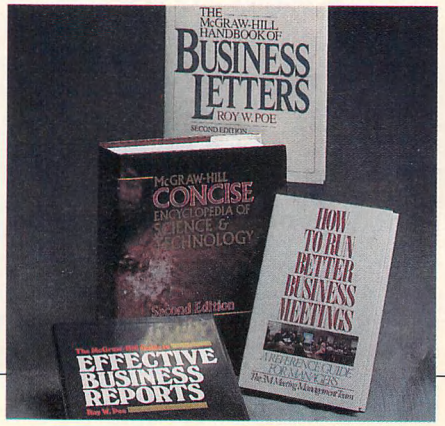
**A farewell to writing checks.**
CheckFree. The Nationwide personal electronic banking system. Read all about it, then order *CheckFree Servisware* ($49.95) or a demo for just $4.75.
From CheckFree Corp. GO CF99

## BOOKS/PERIODICALS



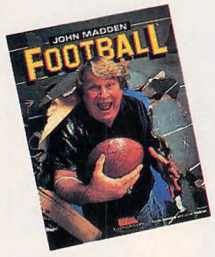

**Knockout pleasure reading.**
*Bad Intentions: The Mike Tyson Story* by Peter Heller. A no-holds-barred biography —both in and out of the ring— of the world's undisputed heavyweight champion.
From Penguin Books.
GO PB99

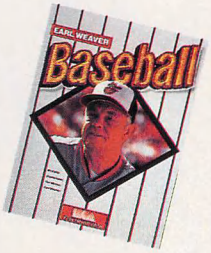
**Reference texts for high-tech pursuits.**
McGraw-Hill reference volumes. Featured titles include *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms, McGraw-Hill Personal Computer Programming Encyclopedia* and *McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Electronics and Computers.*
From McGraw-Hill Bookstore.
GO MH99


THE McGRAW-HILL HANDBOOK OF BUSINESS LETTERS
ROY W. POE
SECOND EDITION
McGRAW-HILL CONCISE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
Second Edition
HOW TO RUN BETTER BUSINESS MEETINGS
EFFECTIVE BUSINESS REPORTS

## COMPUTING

**International PC and property insurance.**
Flash! Safeware now is offering a new international property insurance policy. Reduce the risk of taking valuable computers, fax machines, portable copiers, audio/visual and medical equipment on trips and extended stays overseas. Policy details and immediate electronic sign-up are available online.
From Safeware. GO SAF

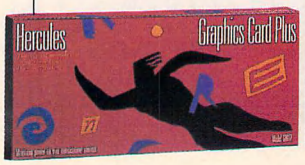


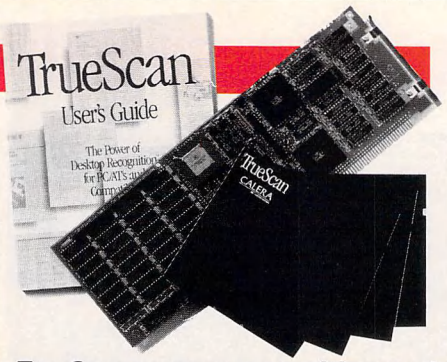




**Software that turns your computer into a playing field.**
Football and baseball software. Featured programs include Street Sports Baseball by Epyx, John Madden's Football from Electronic Arts and GFL Championship Football by Activision.
From Computer Express. GO CE99

**The lightest laptop.**
NEC UltraLite Laptop. Imagine a laptop computer as small as an 8½- by 11-inch piece of paper that features a 78-key, full-size keyboard; an EL backlit, supertwist LCD screen; and 640K of memory, yet weighs only 4.4 pounds! It's here, and it's surprisingly affordable. From A> Help Store. GO AH99

**Cards that make computing much more graphic.**
Hercules Graphics Card Plus 4, and Hercules Color Card (CGA), for IBM PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.
From Direct Micro. GO DM99



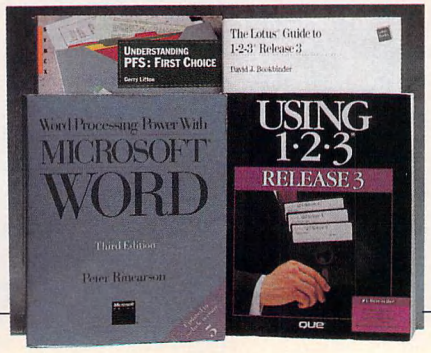



**TrueScan scanner recognition card.**
Captures everything on a page in one pass, regardless of how complicated the page is. Also featured is optical scanning, database management, disk and tape conversions, computer furniture and more. Free brochure, too.
From 1st Run Computer Services.
GO FR99

**3-D graphics for the Atari ST.**
Cyber Sculpt and Cyber Texture. New products that enchance the Cyber graphics line. Add a vast array of 3-D modeling tools and capabilities to your system.
From Antic Software. GO AN99

**Talking Technology lets you set up a voice mail network.**
The Bigmouth line of voice mail and telemarketing products from Talking Technology. Set up a voice mailbox system for as many people as you want, for only $269.95.
From Paradise Technology.
GO PT

***Add to your collection of computer books.***
More than 500 new and backlist titles for novices and pros. Select from hardware-specific, word processing, spreadsheets, telecommunications and more.
From Walden*Computer*Books.
GO WB99




## GIFTS & COLLECTIBLES

**Revere your next culinary creation.**
Revere Onyx cookware. Skillets, stockpots and saucepans.
From Simon David. GO SIM99

**Huggable zoo that costs nothing to feed.**
Plush by GUND. Featured huggable "pets" include Nosey, the plush elephant; Nuttsey, the tree squirrel; Tracker, the bear cub; and Boomer, the Dalmation puppy.
From Walter Knoll Florist.
GO WK99

**Sign your name with style.**
Montblanc, Meisterstuck and Porsche Design titanium ballpoint and fountain pens.
From Harris' Scent-Sations.
GO HR

**Touch this clock to make it glow.**
Seiko Touch 'N' Glo bedside clock. Gold-finish quartz alarm clock. Simply touch it and it glows in the dark.
From Sharon Luggage & Gifts.
GO SL99

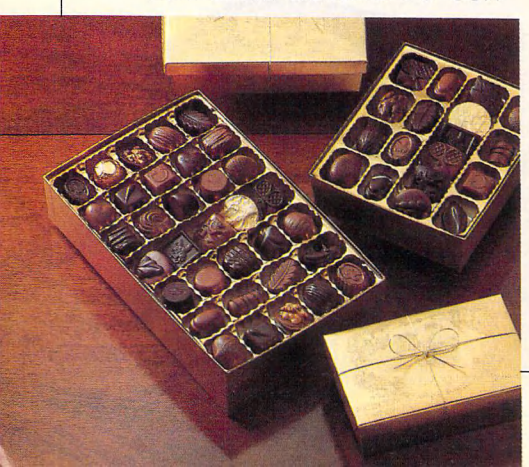
# WINDOWS ON THE MALL

## GOURMET FOODS & FLOWERS

**A New England feast for four.**
Down Maine clambake. You and three guests will enjoy—fresh from the pier—a feast of lobsters, clams, mussels, codfish, onions and potatoes. Each clambake includes a heavy-duty, reusable enameled cook-pot, shell crackers, picks and wet-naps. Shipped in an insulated box by Express Air.
From Rent Mother Nature.
GO RM99

**Seafood samplers, netted in Alaska.**
Featured online are a variety of seafood samplers, including smoked salmon/smoked halibut, Alaskan crab/shrimp sampler and seafare in a wooden box. The last includes five individually packed, 4-ounce pouches of Dunguness crab, shrimp, smoked salmon and smoked oysters, all fresh from Alaskan waters.
From Alaska's Ivory Cache.
GO IV99

**Legendary ballotins.**
Radiant gold boxes dressed in their best, containing chocolates created from Belgian recipes.
From Godiva Chocolate. GO GC99



**Plant spring's harvest now.**
Now's the time to plant your tulips, daffodils and crocuses for next spring. Choose from a wide array of bulb assortments. Free catalog of bulbs available.
From Williams & Eeden Garden Center. GO WE99

**A case of Vitamin C.**
Grapefruit sections. Sweet Florida grapefruit canned in its own natural juices. Available in six or 24 7.5-ounce snack cans.
From Florida Fruit Shippers. GO FFS99

**Coffees with a hint of flavor.**
Flavored coffees, decaf and regular. Flavors include Amaretto, chocolate mint, Irish cream and Viennese with cinnamon.
From Executive Depot. GO ED

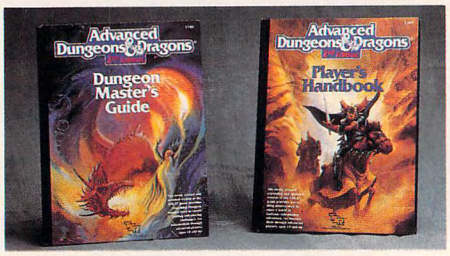
**A tailgate ready to go.**
Perfect for pigskin afternoons. A handsome basket packed with salami, gouda cheese, crackers, olives, mustards and more. Also includes all utensils and a frisbee.
From Simon David. GO SIM99

## HEALTH & BEAUTY

**Wear Raybans without squinting at the price.**
Prices slashed on *all* sunglasses. Huge savings—up to 40 percent—on Carrera, Bolle, Revo, Serengeti and Rayban.
From Elite Eyewear. GO EE

**Jump for health.**
The Ultra Rope. Give your upper body a workout while jumping yourself into shape.
From Push Pedal Pull. GO PPP99

## HOBBIES, TOYS & PETS




**A power guide to dungeon and dragon diversions.**
*Advanced Dungeons & Dragons®, 2nd Edition.* The long-awaited *AD&D® 2nd Edition Player's Handbook, Dungeon Master's Guide, Monstrous Compendiums* plus revised player-character sheets and a new *Dungeons' Masters* reference screen.
From TSR Games Shoppe.
GO TSR99

**Alternatives to TV.**
Classic board games, including *Monopoly, Risk* and *Clue.*
From Games Galore. GO GG

**A collector's must: porcelain Barbie.**
New! Fourth in a series of limited edition porcelain Barbie dolls, this is an engaging recreation of the 1959 Wedding Barbie. Each doll is hand-numbered with a certificate of authenticity registration card and doll stand.
From Hobby Center Toys. GO HC99

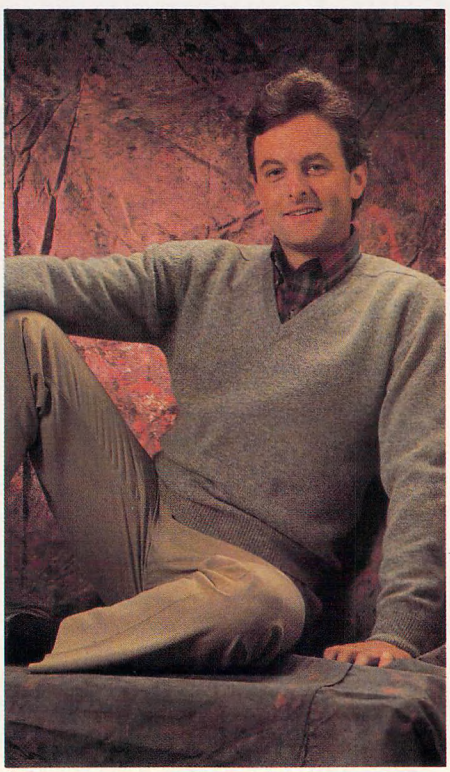
**At-home, high-tech study course.**
The first home study course in Surface Mount Technology (SMT). Learn Surface SMT, a method of installing tiny electronic components on the same side of a circuit board that doubles or even triples the number of components on a board, at home! Teaches the basics of planning, designing, assembling and soldering surface mount boards.
From Heathkit Co. GO HTH

## THE WOMEN'S SHOP

**Sleek, serpentine accessories.**
Black snakeskin with a fuchsia and turquoise overlay. Featured items include a key case, card case and checkbook.
From Sharon Luggage & Gifts. GO SL99

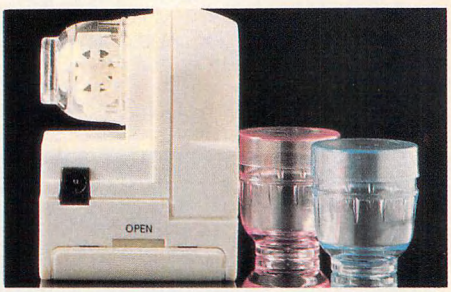
## THE MEN'S SHOP

**Dress up or dress down, for less.**
Brand-name menswear for every occasion at low discount prices. Among the lines featured are Levi, Gitman, Jockey, Palm Beach, Gant, Hart Schnaffner & Marx, Bass and Calvin Klein. Free print catalog, too.
From Apparel Concepts for Men.
GO APC



**Sweaters for fall days and nights.**
V-neck, long- sleeve pullover sweaters in cashmere and lambswool. Choose from a palette of fall colors.
From Apparel Concepts for Men.
GO APC99

## MERCHANDISE & ELECTRONICS




**Clean your contact lenses more thoroughly than ever.**
Contact lens washing machine. An electronic contact lens washer that uses gentle, controlled agitation to remove lens debris up to 50 percent more effectively than any other cleaning method.
From Hammacher Schlemmer.
GO HS99

**Do-it-yourself Dolby.**
Heath's Surround Sound Processor Kit. Recreate the quality sound of movie theater audio at home with Heath's all-new Dolby® Surround Sound Processor Kit. Other home entertainment products featured online include VCRs, a wide range of televisions, a complete line of audio components and other accessories to maximize the home viewer's sight-and-sound experience.
From Heathkit. GO HTH

**Now you can photograph images in 3-D.**
Amazing new technology! A camera that takes pictures in 3-D with regular 35 mm film. Free sample photos on request.
From New Age Resources. GO NAR

**Stadium seat that carries essentials.**
The sportsman's stadium seat pack. A combination stadium seat cover and tote pack that carries everything you need to enjoy the game.
From Hammacher Schlemmer.
GO HS

# WINDOWS ON THE MALL

## SPORTS & LEISURE

**Necessities for outdoor life.**
Knives, compasses and binoculars. Featured items include the Puma "Mariner" filet knife, the Recta Swiss officer's compass and Redfield binoculars—ideal for hunting, birdwatching and sporting events.

From Outdoor Outfitters. GO OO99

## TRAVEL & VACATIONS

**Frequent flyers: get the same flight guides your agents use.**
OAG Pocket Flight Guides. North American, Europe/Middle East/Africa, Pacific Area and Latin America/Caribbean editions available. All are issued monthly and include a subscription for 12 issues of *Frequent Flyer* magazine. Also online, request a free brochure on the OAG Electronic Edition.

From Official Airline Guide. GO OA99

**Take to the slopes.**
Now's the time to plan your winter ski holiday. Endless Vacation Travel offers luxury resort condominium accommodations in a range of prices and with a variety of amenities, in many of your favorite ski resorts, including Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Vail, WinterPark, Breckenridge, Steamboat Springs and Lake Tahoe.

From Endless Vacation Travel. GO EV

## WINNERS CIRCLE

### A year of gourmet coffees.

Congratulations to Steve Comstock, winner of a year's membership in the Coffee of the Month Club, compliments of Coffee Anyone ???. Proprietors Norm and Rosemary Belssner offered the prize as part of their "new name" celebration last March. Here's Steve's letter of thanks:

*Dear Rosemary and Norm,*
*I just found the Costa Rican coffee on my door step this morning with your note about my winning the contest. I've been enjoying fine coffee for a few years, and now I'm looking forward to sampling and comparing those in the Coffee of the Month Club. I can only say thanks for being there when I could not find Jamaican Blue Mountain anywhere else. I hope your supply lasts, and in addition to the coffee of the month, I'm sure I'll be in contact when I run out of Blue Mountain! Thanks again.*
*Steve*

For details on the Coffee of the Month Club, and for the finest in gourmet coffees—including genuine Jamaican Blue Mountain—take a trip to Coffee Anyone ???. VISA, MasterCard and now American Express are accepted. GO COF

## 10 simple steps to ordering from The Mall.

Forget looking for a parking space or waiting in check-out lines at The Electronic Mall. Just follow these 10 easy steps:

**Step 1.** Type GO MALL at any ! prompt and press the Return key. Then select "Shop The Mall" from the menu to access The Electronic Mall.

**Step 2.** Select "Shop by Department" or "Shop by Merchant." Either choice contains a handy guide to help you decide which stores to shop.

**Step 3.** Select the menu option for the specific store you want to visit.

**Step 4.** Browse online merchandise by reading detailed product descriptions, which include prices and shipping information.

**Step 5.** Type O at the ! prompt if you want to order an item. (Cancel your order at any time by typing EXIT at the prompt.)

**Step 6.** Enter the number of items you want to order at the prompt and press the Return key.

**Step 7.** Type CHECKOUT at any prompt after you're finished ordering.

**Step 8.** Review the order summary when it appears on your screen and revise it if necessary.

**Step 9.** Complete the electronic order form that's presented with billing and shipping information. Review and revise as needed.

**Step 10.** Jot down your order's confirmation number when it appears on the screen. A copy of the order will be sent to your Electronic Mailbox (GO EASY) if you select this option.

Your shopping trip is complete. Beats wheeling a cart through acres of merchandise, doesn't it?

# MALL DIRECTORY

## ARTS, MUSIC, VIDEO

**AM** AM/PM Music & Video
**CD** Compact Disc Club *
**CM** The Classical Music Club
**MAO** Music Alley Online
**RT** Record and Tape Club *
**VC** The Video Club *
**WH** Windham Hill ■ *

## AUTO

**AL** Alamo Rent A Car
**AQ** Autoquot-R
**AV** AutoVision
**BU** Buick Magazine ■
**CHV** Chevrolet ■
**FMC** Ford Motor Co. ■ *
**NI** Nissan ■

## BOOKS/PERIODICALS

**AN** Antic Software
**BAL** Ballantine Books
**BB** Brady Books ■ * †
**BW** *Business Week* †
**CS** *Computer Shopper*
**DJ** Dow Jones & Company
**DR** Dreyfus
**MH** The McGraw-Hill Book Co. ■ *
**MC** *MacUser*
**MER** Mercury House
**MFM** Money's Financial Market †
**NW** *Newsweek*
**PCC** *PC/Computing*
**PM** *PC Magazine*
**PB** Penguin Books ■ *
**BK** Small Computer Book Club
**TL** Time-Life Books
**WB** Walden Computer Books

## BUSINESS & FINANCE

**IN** Auto Write
**INC** Business Incorporating Guide
**BW** *Business Week*
**CF** CheckFree
**DJ** Dow Jones & Company
**HRB** H&R Block
**II** Insurance Information
**IS** Investment Software ■
**LA** The Law Store
**TKR** Max Ule Discount Brokerage
**MFM** Money's Financial Market
**NN** NewsNet

## CLUBS & MEMBERSHIPS

**CM** The Classical Music Club
**CD** Compact Disc Club *
**NCW** National Computer Warehouse Club
**RT** Record and Tape Club *
**SAC** Shoppers Advantage
**BK** Small Computer Book Club
**TL** Time-Life Books
**VC** The Video Club *

## COMPUTING

**AH** A› Help Store
**AN** Antic Software
**ATI** American Training International ■ *
**CDA** CDA Computer Sales ■ *
**RS** The CD-ROM Store †
**CE** Computer Express * •
**CS** *Computer Shopper*
**PD** The Computer Mart †
**DM** Direct Micro ■ *
**FWC** Fort Worth Computer
**HTH** Heathkit ■ *
**IS** Investment Software ■
**MC** *MacUser*
**MW** MacWarehouse †
**MM** Marymac Industries
**NCW** National Computer Warehouse Club
**NAR** New Age Resources ■ *
**OI** Ocean Isle Software
**OS** Online Store
**PT** Paradise Technology
**PCC** *PC/Computing*
**PM** *PC Magazine*
**PP** Programs Plus
**SAF** Safeware Computer Insurance ■
**SDA** Software Discounters of America
**SP** Some Things Special
**WB** Walden Computer Books ■ *

## GIFTS & COLLECTIBLES

**CC** The Chef's Catalog ■ * †
**COF** Coffee, Anyone ???
**CT** Countree Reflections
**CR** Crabtree & Evelyn ■ *
**DS** 44 Cakes ■
**ED** Executive Depot ■ *
**FFS** Florida Fruit Shippers ■
**FS** Flower Stop
**GC** Godiva Chocolates ■ *
**HR** Harris' Scent-Sations
**IR** Indian River Citrus ■ *
**IV** Alaska's Ivory Cache ■ *
**PF** Pepperidge Farm ■ *
**RM** Rent Mother Nature ■ *
**GR** Annemarie G. Schaffer
**SL** Sharon Luggage and Gifts ■ *
**SIM** Simon David ■ *
**SP** Some Things Special
**WK** Walter Knoll Florist

## GOURMET FOODS & FLOWERS

**GC** Godiva Chocolates ■ *
**COF** Coffee, Anyone ???
**DS** 44 Cakes ■
**ED** Executive Depot ■ *
**FFS** Florida Fruit Shippers ■
**FS** Flower Stop
**IR** Indian River Citrus ■ *
**IV** Alaska's Ivory Cache ■ *
**PF** Pepperidge Farm ■ *
**RM** Rent Mother Nature ■ *
**SIM** Simon David ■ *
**WK** Walter Knoll Florist
**WE** Williams & Eeden Garden Center ■ *

## HEALTH & BEAUTY

**CR** Crabtree & Evelyn ■ *
**EE** Elite Eyewear ■ *
**NAR** New Age Resources *
**PPP** Push Pedal Pull ■ *

## HOBBIES, TOYS & PETS

**GG** Games Galore ■ *
**HC** Hobby Center Toys
**OO** Outdoor Outfitters ■ *
**PW** Petworks
**TSR** TSR Games Shoppe ■ *
**WE** Williams & Eeden Garden Center ■ *
**TP** Traveling with Your Pet

## THE MEN'S SHOP

**APC** Apparel Concepts for Men ■

## THE WOMEN'S SHOP

**HR** Harris' Scent-Sations
**GR** Annemarie G. Schaffer
**SL** Sharon Luggage and Gifts

## MERCHANDISE & ELECTRONICS

**CC** Chef's Catalog ■ * †
**ORD** CompuServe Store
**HS** Hammacher Schlemmer ■ *
**HTH** Heathkit ■ *
**MI** Miltrobe • * †
**SAC** Shoppers Advantage *

## OFFICE SUPPLIES

**DM** Direct Micro ■ *
**EX** Executive Stamper
**SC** The Stationery Center

## SERVICES

**TN** Auto Write
**EA** Educational Advisory Services †
**FR** First Run Computer Services
**LA** The Law Store
**SAF** Safeware Computer Insurance ■

## SPORTS & LEISURE

**EE** Elite Eyewear
**GG** Games Galore ■ *
**HS** Hammacher Schlemmer ■ *
**OO** Outdoor Outfitters ■ *
**PPP** Push Pedal Pull ■ *
**RR** Rin Robyn Pool 'N Patio ■

## TRAVEL & VACATIONS

**AF** Air France ■
**EV** Endless Vacation Travel *
**OA** Official Airline Guide
**SL** Sharon Luggage and Gifts ■ *
**TP** Traveling with Your Pet

■ Offers free print catalog.
* Denotes electronic order form for use with print catalog.
• Credits cost of print catalog toward purchase.
† Denotes new merchant.

# GOINGS ON AT A GLANCE

## FUN & GAMES

**Win autographed country music CDs.**
The annual Country Music Awards are this October and AM/PM Music & Video is celebrating! Correctly guess the winners in three categories—Entertainer of the Year, Album of the Year and Song of the Year—and you could win one of several autographed CDs, including Randy Travis' "Old 8 x 10." For complete details and your chance to win, GO AM.

**Win a gift certificate at Games Galore.**
Take a trip to Games Galore and play "The Quest for the Best Game in the World." To play, you must first vote for your favorite game. The second part requires a little leg work. Collect a series of clues hidden in the database and put them together to identify that month's mystery country. If you are correct, your name goes into the pool for that month's drawing—three times! Even if you are wrong, you can still win, but your name will be entered only once. One grand-prize winner will receive a $25 gift certificate. A second winner will receive a $15 gift certificate. Play in September, then again in October. For contest details and your chance to win, GO GG.

**And don't forget ...**

- Buick Magazine's "Heritage Quiz" GO BU
- The Chevrolet Showroom's "Motoring Milestones Trivia Quiz" GO CHV

### Flash! Find items online—fast—that appear in *Go Mall*.

Now you can find items pictured in *Go Mall* faster than a speeding bullet.

If a product is pictured in *Go Mall*, simply type its respective store's GO command, followed by 99. For example, if you're interested in reading more about Hammacher Schlemmer's quacking duck phone, type GO HS99. If you want to learn more about Sharon Luggage and Gifts' serpentine accessories, type GO SL99.

It's that easy.

## SEPTEMBER

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

## OCTOBER

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

### What the heck is "free connect"?

Whenever you read about a free-connect weekend in *Go Mall*, know you can browse through participating merchants' online stores for those two days without paying standard CompuServe connect rates. In other words, you pay nothing while you explore a Mall store that's currently offering free connect.

An up-to-date list of free-connect weekends can always be found online in "This Week's Mall News." (Though connect-time charges are waived, any applicable communications surcharges *do* remain in effect. Sorry.)

Who says you can't get something for nothing?

### The price is right (most of the time, anyway).

All prices mentioned in *Go Mall* are the most accurate prices available to our editorial staff at the time of publication. However, because The Electronic Mall is such a dynamic, changing environment, occasionally a printed price will be out-of-date by the time you look up the featured product online.

Here's a good rule of thumb: Before ordering anything from The Mall that appears in *Go Mall*, make sure you check its online price. You can be sure that this price is the most current.

## HAPPENINGS

- Every Monday throughout September and October, 30 new winners of Your Number's Up! are posted online.
- Grand-prize drawing in Your Number's Up! is Oct. 30. Who will drive away in a 1990 Ford Taurus SHO?

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

**Holiday Bazaar '89 opens Nov. 1!**
Watch for details on free shopping, live visits from Santa, Christmas contests and hundreds of great gifts.

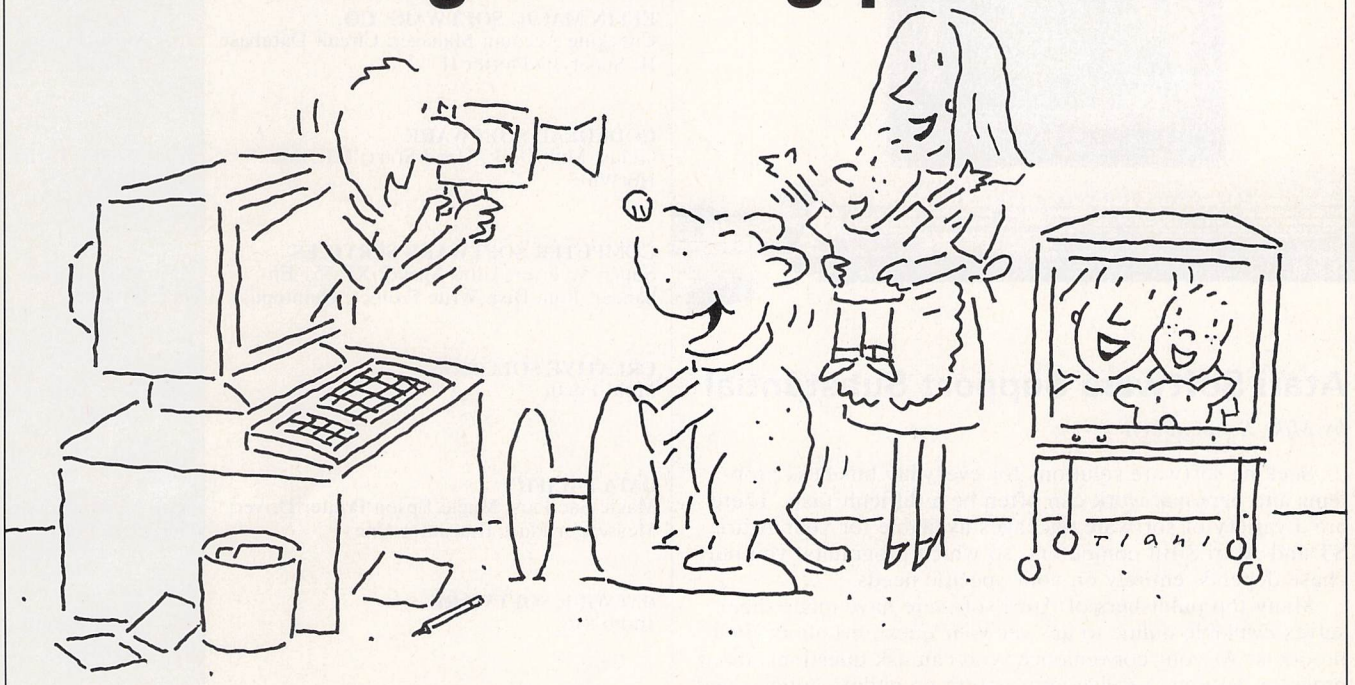
## FREE SHOPPING

**A>Help Store GO AH**
September free shopping: Sept. 16, 17
**AM/PM Music & Video GO AM**
September free shopping: Sept. 16, 17
**AutoVision GO AV**
September free shopping: Sept. 16, 17, 23, 24
October free shopping: Oct. 7, 8
**Brady Books GO BB**
September free shopping: Sept. 16, 17
**Business Week GO BW**
September free shopping: Sept. 23, 24
**The CD-ROM Store GO RS**
September free shopping; Sept. 9,10.
**Checkfree GO CF**
September free shopping: Sept. 23, 24
**The Chef's Catalog GO CC**
September free shopping: Sept. 16, 17
**Coffee Anyone??? GO COF**
September free shopping: Sept. 16, 17
**The Computer Mart GO PD**
September free shopping: Sept. 9, 10
October free shopping: Oct. 7, 8
**Direct Micro GO DM**
October free shopping: Oct. 7, 8
**Educational Advisory GO EA**
September free shopping: Sept. 23, 24
**Endless Vacation Travel GO EV**
October free shopping: Oct. 14, 15
**Heathkit GO HTH**
September free shopping: Sept. 16, 17
October free shopping: Oct. 7, 8
**MacWarehouse GO MW**
September free shopping: Sept. 16, 17
October free shopping: 14, 15, 28, 29
**McGraw-Hill GO MH**
September free shopping: Sept. 16, 17, 23, 24
October free shopping: Oct. 21, 22, 28, 29
**Miltrobe GO MI**
October free shopping: Oct. 7, 8
**Money's Financial Market GO MFM**
September free shopping: Sept. 9, 10
**New Age Resources GO NAR**
October free shopping: Oct. 21, 22
**Outdoor Outfitters GO OO**
September free shopping: Sept. 9, 10
**Push Pedal Pull GO PPP**
September free shopping: Sept. 2, 3
**Sharon Luggage & Gifts GO SL**
October free shopping: Oct. 7, 8
**Software Discounters of America GO SDA**
September free shopping: Sept. 16, 17
October free shopping: Oct. 21, 22
**Walden *Computer* Books GO WB**
September free shopping: Sept. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30
October free shopping: Oct. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29

## It's TV and Video Information Time at Shoppers Advantage!

# Shop online

## and get the big picture!



**Shoppers Advantage**℠

ON THE ELECTRONIC MALL®

Do you get confused when you hear that VCRs have heads, TVs have rabbit ears, and you don't know which button to push to capture baby's first words in living color?

August and September are TV and Video Information Months at Shoppers Advantage and the perfect time to find out the why and how of the ever-changing world of TV and Video. Come online and take advantage of our complete new glossary of TV and video terms, designed to help you decide which items from our huge listing of over 250,000 products will best suit your needs.

Shop at your convenience, with more detailed information than ever before, and save 10% to 50% OFF the manufacturers' suggested list prices. You'll get all this, and more:

- **User-friendly convenience.** We're open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Browse online, order online, and have your purchases delivered to your door. Simple menus and step-by-step instructions make it easy.
- **Tremendous selection.** Without leaving the comfort of your home or office, compare makes and models, compare name-brands – best of all, compare prices!
- **Low-price guarantee.** If you can find a lower price on an item you buy from us, we'll refund the difference.*
- **Double warranties.** You can double the manufacturer's warranty up to one year at no additional cost.*
- **Free catalogs.** We'll keep you informed about our latest "Best Buys" and exciting additions to our database of fine products!
- **Enroll today.** Sign on to CompuServe and enter **GO SAC** to have full membership privileges for 3 months for just $1. Then, unless you notify us, we will continue your membership and bill you for the low annual fee of $30. And, of course, you can cancel and receive a full refund at any time during the first year.

**Enter GO SAC or Call 1-800-843-7777**

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Shoppers Advantage is a service of CUC International Inc.
The Electronic Mall is a service of CompuServe.
*Conditions of our Low-Price Guarantee and Double Warranty Policy can be read online. A890T

**Special introductory offer for CompuServe subscribers: 3 months for $1!**

## Atari Software Support Substantial

*by Mike Schoenbach*

Seeking software solutions for everyday business problems and personal work can often be a difficult task. There are a variety of software packages available for your Atari ST and Atari 8-Bit computers, so which program(s) you purchase depends entirely on your specific needs.

Many top publishers of Atari software have made themselves available online to answer your questions about their products. At your convenience, you can ask questions about program features, receive information on update policies and new version releases, download the latest program enhancement patches and drivers, and most importantly, get answers when you experience problems.

The following table will tell you where you can find online support for most of the major software packages available. Note that in addition to publishers of productivity software, many entertainment software makers are also available online to discuss their products.

| MANUFACTURER AND SOFTWARE | FORUM AND GO COMMAND |
|---|---|
| **ANTIC SOFTWARE**<br>Cartoon Design; Cyber Control; Cyber Paint 2.0; Cyber Print; Cyber Sculpt; Cyber Studio 2.0; Cyber Texture; Cyber VCR; Spectrum 512; Video Titling | Atari ST Arts Forum<br>GO ATARIARTS |
| All Aboard; Architectural Design; Base Two; Data Maps I; Data Maps II; Future Design; Flash 1.6; Genesis; Interior Design; Human Design; Macro Mouse; Maps and Legends; Microbot Design; The Navigator 2.0; Phasar; Shadow; Star Quake; GFA BASIC; GFA BASIC Compiler | Atari Productivity Forum<br>GO ATARIPRO |
| **AVANT-GARDE**<br>PC-Ditto; PC-Ditto II | Atari Vendor Forum<br>GO ATARIVEN |
| **BRODERBUND SOFTWARE**<br>Autoduel; Downhill Challenge; Moebius; Ogre; Star Wars; Superbike Challenge; Typhoon Thompson; Ultima III; Ultima IV | Atari ST Arts Forum<br>GO ATARIARTS |
| **ELFIN MAGIC SOFTWARE CO.**<br>Checking Account Manager; Circuit Database II; Super 3D Plotter II | Atari 8-Bit Forum<br>GO ATARI8 |
| **CODEHEAD SOFTWARE**<br>GPlus; MultiDesk; Head Start; MIDIMax!; HotWire | Atari Vendor Forum<br>GO ATARIVEN |
| **COMPUTER SOFTWARE SERVICES**<br>Super Archiver; Ultra Speed; XF-551 Enhancer; Ram Disk Write Protect; Quintopus | Atari 8-Bit Forum<br>GO ATARI8 |
| **CREATIVE SOLUTIONS**<br>Multi-Forth | CSI Forth Forum<br>GO FORTH |
| **DATA PACIFIC**<br>Magic Sac Plus; Magic Epson Printer Driver; Messenger Plus; Translator One | Atari Vendor Forum<br>GO ATARIVEN |
| **DATAQUE SOFTWARE**<br>Turbo-816 | Atari 8-Bit Forum<br>GO ATARI8 |
| **ELECTRONIC ARTS**<br>Zany Golf; Arcticfox; The Bard's Tale; Marble Madness; One-on-One; Seven Cities of Gold | Game Publishers Forum<br>GO GAMPUB |
| **EPYX**<br>World Games; Winter Games; California Games; Final Assault; Super Cycle; Championship Wrestling; Sub Battle Simulator; Battleship; Impossible Mission II; Death Sword; Boulder Dash Construction Kit; Dive Bomber; Metro Cross; Street Cat; Sports A Roni; Tower Toppler Art and Film Director; Summer Games; Spy Vs. Spy III | Game Publishers Forum<br>GO GAMPUB |
| **GADGETS BY SMALL INC.**<br>Spectre 128; Spectre GCR | Atari Vendor Forum<br>GO ATARIVEN |
| **HAPPY COMPUTERS**<br>Discovery Cartridge | Atari Productivity Forum<br>GO ATARIPRO |
| **HYBRID ARTS**<br>MidiTrack; SmpteTrack; SyncTrack; EditTrack; EZ-Track Plus; EZ-Score Plus; GenPatch ST; Ludwig; HybriSwitch; DX-Android; CZ-Android; MidiTrack II; MidiTrack III | MCS MIDI Forum<br>GO MIDI |

| MANUFACTURER AND SOFTWARE | FORUM AND GO COMMAND |
|---|---|
| **ICD INC.**<br>ACTION!; ACTION! Toolkit; ACTION! Runtime; BASIC XL; BASIC XL Toolkit; BASIC XE; BBS Express! ST; FlashBack; MAC/65; MAC/65 Toolkit; MIO; Personal Pascal; Printer Connection; P:R: Connection; Writer's Tool; Rambo XL; SpartaDOS Construction Set; SpartaDOS X | Atari Vendor Forum<br>GO ATARIVEN |
| **INFOCOM INC.**<br>Zork I; Zork II; Zork III; Zork Trilogy; Beyond Zork; Leather Goddesses of Phobos; Hollywood Hijinx; Infidel; Ballyhoo; Seastalker; Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy; A Mind Forever Voyaging; The Witness; Suspect; Moonmist; Stationfall; Suspended; Wishbringer; Cutthroats; Starcross; Plundered Hearts; Trinity; Nord and Bert Couldn't Make Head or Tail of It; Enchanter; Sorcerer; Spellbreaker; Fooblitzky; The Lurking Horror; Deadline; Bureaucracy | Game Publishers Forum<br>GO GAMPUB |
| **INTERSECT SOFTWARE**<br>Interlink ST; Music Construction Set; Revolver; Masterlink | Atari Vendor Forum<br>GO ATARIVEN |
| **MARATHON COMPUTER PRESS**<br>The GFA BASIC Companion; The Vocabularian, VDOS ProQueue | Atari Productivity Forum<br>GO ATARIPRO |
| **MICHTRON**<br>Airball; Airball Construction Kit; DevpacST; Fleet Street Publisher; Fright Night; Goldrunner; Goldrunner II; The Grail; HiSoft BASIC Professional; HiSoft BASIC; Insanity Fight; International Soccer; Jupiter Probe; Karate Kid II; Leatherneck; Major Motion; Michtron B.B.S. 3.0; ProText; Shuttle II; Slaygon; Talespin; Tanglewood; Time Bandit | Atari Vendor Forum<br>GO ATARIVEN |
| **MICROMISER SOFTWARE**<br>TurboBase; TurboBase-80; TurboWord; UltraBase ST | Atari 8-Bit Forum<br>GO ATARI8 |
| **MICROPROSE SOFTWARE**<br>Gunship; Silent Service; F15 Strike Eagle | Game Publishers Forum<br>GO GAMPUB |
| **MIGRAPH INC.**<br>Easy-Draw; SuperCharged Easy-Draw; Touch-Up; LabelMaster Elite; Espooler; DrawArt Professional; ScanArt; Fast; Border Pack; Font Pack 1 | Atari Productivity Forum<br>GO ATARIPRO |
| **PECAN SOFTWARE SYSTEMS INC.**<br>Power System | MUSUS Forum<br>GO MUSUS |
| **PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS**<br>Monitor Master; Mouse Master; Drive Master; VideoKey; Tweety Board | Atari Vendor Forum<br>GO ATARIVEN |
| **QUANTAM MICRO SYSTEMS (QMI)**<br>BB/ST; DeskCart!; ST-Talk Professional | Atari Vendor Forum<br>GO ATARIVEN |
| **REGENT SOFTWARE**<br>Business Management System; The Informer; MegaTouch; Regent Base II; Regent Word; Regent Word II; Regent Spell; SQL Database Add-on for LDW BASIC; SQL Database Add-on for GFA BASIC | Atari Vendor Forum<br>GO ATARIVEN |
| **SIERRA ON-LINE INC.**<br>Kings Quest I; Kings Quest II; Kings Quest III; Kings Quest IV; Space Quest I; Space Quest II; Leisure Suit Larry; Police Quest; Gold Rush; Manhunter | Game Publishers Forum<br>GO GAMPUB |
| **SPECTRUM HOLOBYTE**<br>Gato; Falcon; Orbiter; Tetris | Game Publishers Forum<br>GO GAMPUB |
| **SOFTLOGIK PUBLISHING CORP.**<br>PageStream; Font Design Partner; PageStream Fonts; PageStream StartUp | Atari Vendor Forum<br>GO ATARIVEN |
| **SOFTWARE TOOLWORKS**<br>Chesmaster 2000; Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing | Atari 8-Bit Forum<br>GO ATARI8 |
| **SUBLOGIC CORP.**<br>Flight Simulator II; Scenery Disks 7, 11, Japan, Western European Tour; Jet | Game Publishers Forum<br>GO GAMPUB |
| **SUPRA CORP.**<br>SupraDrive hard-disk systems; SupraModem 2400 | Atari Vendor Forum<br>GO ATARIVEN |
| **TEAM SOFTWARE**<br>A Day at the Races | Atari ST Arts Forum<br>GO ATARIARTS |
| **TRIO ENGINEERING**<br>Digispec; Unispec; ST Control | Atari Productivity Forum<br>GO ATARIPRO |
| **WORDPERFECT CORP.**<br>WordPerfect | WordPerfect Support Group<br>GO WPSG |
| **VIRTUAL SOUNDS**<br>SampleMaker | Atari ST Arts Forum<br>GO ATARIARTS |

*Mike Schoenbach is an assistant forum administrator in the CompuServe Atari Forums. He also writes for several Atari magazines. His CompuServe User ID number is 76703,4363.*

## Browse Amiga Resources Online

*by Bob Sanchez*

Planning to buy software for your Amiga? Looking for support for what you already bought? Before you trek to your local software store, you'll want to check the online support that's available. Simply browse through this list—you'll find vendors supporting games, word processors, graphics tools and much more.

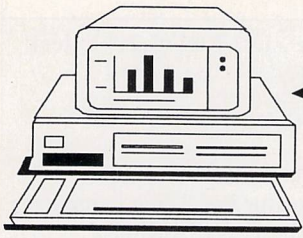
And don't forget to drop by the Amiga Vendor Forum. There you'll find many vendors offering support, and members willing to share their experience. GO AMIGAVENDOR gets you there in a hurry!

| MANUFACTURER AND SOFTWARE | FORUM AND GO COMMAND |
|---|---|
| **ASDG**<br>CygnusEd Professional; FaccII; Professional ScanLab; SBX-GPIB; SBX-Serial/2; Twin-X General Purpose I/O Board | Amiga Vendor Forum<br>GO AMIGAVENDOR |
| **AVANT-GARDE**<br>Benchmark Modula-2 Software Construction Set; C Language Library for Benchmark Modula-2; IFF & Image Resource Library for Benchmark Modula-2; Simplified Amiga Library for Benchmark Modula-2 | Amiga Vendor Forum<br>GO AMIGAVENDOR |
| **GOLD DISK**<br>Comicsetter; Design 3D; Desktop Budget; Gold Disk Scanner; GoldSpell II; LaserScript; MovieSetter; PageSetter; Professional Draw; Professional Page; Transcript | Amiga Vendor Forum<br>GO AMIGAVENDOR |
| **IMPULSE**<br>Architecture-1; Diamond; Fonts-1; Harmony; PotPourri-1; Stereo-1; Terrain; Turbo Silver; VD-1; Woodlands | Amiga Vendor Forum<br>GO AMIGAVENDOR |
| **M2S**<br>M2Sprint | Amiga Vendor Forum<br>GO AMIGAVENDOR |
| **METADIGM**<br>MetaScope: The Debugger; Saf-T-Net | Amiga Tech Forum<br>GO AMIGATECH |
| **MICROILLUSIONS**<br>Black Jack Academy; Cel Animator; Discovery Series; The Faery Tale Adventure; Firepower; Galactic Invasion; Photon Paint 1.0; Romantic Encounters At The Dome; Tracers; Transport Controller | Amiga Vendor Forum<br>GO AMIGAVENDOR |
| **MICROSMITHS**<br>TxEd Plus | Amiga Vendor Forum<br>GO AMIGAVENDOR |
| **NEW HORIZONS**<br>Flow; ProScript; ProWrite | Amiga Vendor Forum<br>GO AMIGAVENDOR |
| **OTG SOFTWARE**<br>DSM (MC68000 disassembler) | Amiga Tech Forum<br>GO AMIGATECH |
| **PIXELATIONS**<br>PrintScript | Amiga Tech Forum<br>GO AMIGATECH |
| **PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS**<br>Mouse Master (Mouse/joystick switcher) | Atari Vendor Forum<br>GO ATARIVEN |
| **SOFT-LOGIK**<br>PageStream | Amiga Arts Forum<br>GO AMIGAARTS |
| **SUPRA CORPORATION**<br>SupraDrive hard-disk systems; SupraModem 2400 | Atari Vendor Forum<br>GO ATARIVEN |
| **SYNDESIS**<br>Forms In Flight Conversion Module; InterChange; InterChange Object Disk 1; InterFont; Turbo Silver Conversion Module | Amiga Vendor Forum<br>GO AMIGAVENDOR |
| **WORDPERFECT CORPORATION**<br>Library 1.0 (Calendar, Notebook, Calculator, Program Editor, and File Manager); Print; Printdef; Spell; WordPerfect 4.1 | WordPerfect Support Group<br>GO WPSG |

*Robert Sanchez is a technical writer living in North Billerica, Mass.*

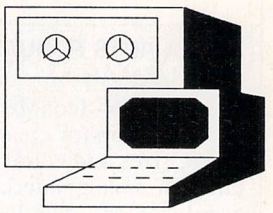
## Coming Next Month... Apple and Macintosh

Apple and Macintosh users, be sure to check the October issue of *Online Today* for software support summary tables for your machines.



# Spear Securities, Inc.

*America's Innovative Discount Broker*



# DEMAND THE BEST

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# U P L O A D S

*by David Peyton*

The libraries in CompuServe's forums are filled with thousands of files. The following are a few of the files uploaded in recent months. For a more up-to-date list, check the weekly "Uploads" columns in *Online Today Daily Edition* (GO OLT-3700).

### AMIGA ARTS FORUM
(GO AMIGAARTS)

**Icon Creator**—IconMeister, an edit/paint program for creating icons of all types, sizes and colors, includes features for making interlace, eight-color and dual icons. File ICONME.ARC (33,738 bytes) in Library 9.

### AUTODESK FORUM
(GO AUTODESK)

**Create Macros**—A document that describes how to create your own macros in AutoCAD. Explains the use of ANSI.SYS and how to use AutoLISP to enhance your command input techniques. Also explores commercially available macro programs for AutoCAD. File MACROS.DOC (6,656 bytes) in Library 9.

### BORLAND APPLICATION PRODUCTS FORUM
(GO BORAPP)

**SWAP Utility**—SWAPSP, a program that enables you to run Borland's Sidekick Plus in less than 9,000 bytes, is part of The SWAP Utilities and works best with EMS, hard disk or RAM disk. Supports TesSERact standard for RAM-resident program communication. Written by Chip Rabinowitz. File SWAPSP.ARC (41,219 bytes) in Library 2.

### BORLAND PROGRAMMING FORUM A
(GO BPROGA)

**Light-Bar Menu**—MGN, a Menu Engine that contains logic to put a simple light-bar menu on the screen. You provide the ASCII textfile with the data for the menu engine and suitable batch file that will use the MGN program. MGN generates Lotus 1-2-3 or Borland style menus. Program is free. File MGN.ARC (19,200 bytes) in Library 2.

### BORLAND PROGRAMMING FORUM A
(GO BPROGA)

**Communications Toolbox**—Version 5.0 of the LiteComm-TP Communications ToolBox is a fully functional shareware version. It is for Turbo Pascal 5.0 only and features faster interrupt handlers and several new functions and procedures. The self-extracting file LTCOMM.EXE (119,257 bytes) can be found in Library 2.

### CB FORUM
(GO CBFORUM)

**CB Program**—A new version of CBT, a communications program for IBM PC and compatible computers expressly developed for accessing CompuServe's CB Simulator. This new version is for use with the new CB software. The program can be found in an archived version in the file CBTEXE.ARC (39,017 bytes) and CBTDOC.ARC (documentation, 16,810 bytes) in Library 1.

### COLOR COMPUTER FORUM
(GO COCO)

**Sing-Along**—A sing-along for the CoCo 3. File NOAH.BAS (3,254 bytes) in Library 11.

### COMICS AND ANIMATION FORUM
(GO COMICS)

**Heroes Checklist**—*The Legion of Super-Heroes* from April 1958 to May 1989 includes all 425 regular stories, 75 cameo appearances of Legionnaires in other titles, the 18 spinoff stories and many "reference" features. Formatted in checklist style and in order of publication. File CHKLST.LSH (28,390 bytes) in Library 3.

### COMMODORE ART, GAMES AND GRAPHICS FORUM
(GO CBMART)

***Breakout* Game**—*Zix 2* by Pierre Messier, a *Breakout*-type game for the Commodore 64 with lots of imaginative screens. Use [CONTROL-P] to add extra lives (up to 99). Joystick required in Port 2. File ZIX2.BIN (5,248 bytes) in Library 8.

### COMPUTER CLUB FORUM
(GO CLUB)

**Adam Word Processor**—WordPRO, a word processor for the Adam computer written in Turbo Pascal. Includes source code and help file. Turbo Pascal needed to compile this for your specific terminal. File WP-100.LBR (25,000 bytes) in Library 10.

### COMPUTER TRAINING FORUM
(GO DPTRAIN)

**Training Aid**—Pop Train, a trainable RAM-resident presentation (help) system able to display help screens depending on the page and field location of the cursor. Pop Train can be used with "Digitone" voice delivery hardware/software. File POPT12.EXE (87,296 bytes) in Library 6.

### EDUCATION FORUM
(GO EDFORUM)

**Gradebook Program**—Magic Gradebook Manager, a gradebook program for IBM PC and compatible computers in the Education Forum. The program was the winner of the Great Computer Challenge Contest at Old Dominion University. The program is able to be customized and a context-sensitive help screen guides users through the program. File GRADBK.ARC (116,096 bytes) in Library 2.

### GENEALOGY FORUM
(GO ROOTS)

**US Constitution**—The US Constitution is a program that runs on all IBM PCs and compatibles. Includes contents section where you can pick the article or amendment you want to see, as well as a topical index at the end. File USA.ARC (54,836 bytes) in Library 3.

### GREAT OUTDOORS FORUM
(GO OUTDOORS)

**Bass Database**—A program for IBM PCs and compatibles to keep track of bass catches. BassBase is a fishing trip log program that features point-and-shoot menus and menus for water names and weather conditions. The program is in file BASSBA.ARC (202,649 bytes) in Library 5.

### IBM APPLICATIONS FORUM
(GO IBMAPP)

**Legal Aid**—LEGALDOC, a program that contains more than 100 legal business documents, from leasing or purchasing equipment, assignments of lien,

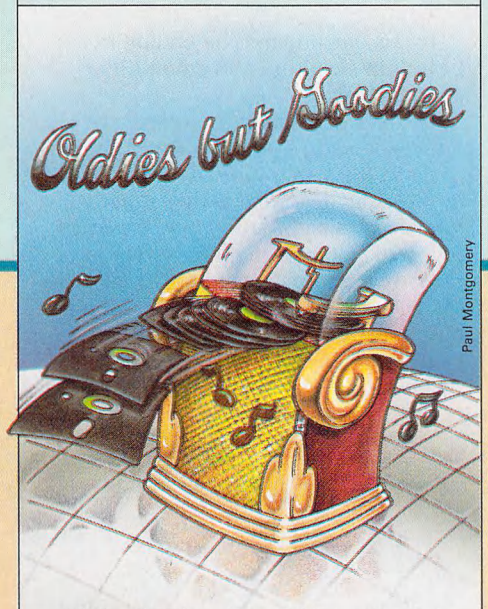
power of attorney, promissory notes, zoning requests and many letters. Self-extracting archive. File LGLDOC.COM (63,317 bytes) in Library 6.

**IBM HARDWARE FORUM**
(GO IBMHW)

**DOS Report**—Version 4 of SYSID, a system information utility that produces 16 pages of information about MS-DOS systems. File SYSID4.ARC (67,685 bytes) in Library 4.

**MAUG HYPERFORUM**
(GO APPHYPER)

**Storyboard Creator**—StoryBoarder, a Macintosh HyperCard stack that helps you create storyboards for video, film and multimedia productions. Requires HyperCard version 1.2 or later. File STRYBD.SIT (7,897 bytes) in Library 8.




Following is a list of files uploaded to CompuServe forums more than a year ago that have won the right to be called "oldies but goodies," either by the recommendation of forum administrators or by the number of downloads each file has received.

**AMIGA ARTS FORUM**
(GO AMIGAARTS)

***Battleship***—A public-domain *Battleship* game with stereo sound, menu-driven options, use of mouse to fire and high-resolution graphics. Requires 512K. File BATTLE.ARC (147,951 bytes) in Library 4.

**APPLE DEVELOPERS FORUM**
(GO APPDEV)

**Desk Accessory Menu Help**—Sample source code (in LightspeedC) shows how to use hierarchical menus in a Desk Accessory. Requires a Macintosh SE, Macintosh II or use of System 4.1. File DAMENU.PIT (36,992 bytes) in Library 3.

**ASTRONOMY FORUM**
(GO ASTROFORUM)

**Time to Shower**—A reminder system for IBM PCs and compatibles automatically reminds you of upcoming meteor showers. File METEOR.COM (13,440 bytes) in Library 7.

**ATARI 8-BIT FORUM**
(GO ATARI8)

**Snow Fight**—A two-player arcade game for the Atari. Players slug it out with snowballs. Uses joystick. File SNOFIT.XMO (6,528 bytes) in Library 10.

**ATARI ST ARTS FORUM**
(GO ATARIARTS)

***Daleks***—A game in which you must keep the doctor away from the Daleks. Works in medium-resolution color or high-resolution monochrome. Shareware. File DALEKS.ARC (18,876 bytes) in Library 2.

**AUTODESK FORUM**
(GO AUTODESK)

**AutoCAD Viewer**—A program that sets up 16 views in any size/scale AutoCAD drawing. Inserts overlays for ease of use. Includes instructions, suggested menu and VIEW.DWG. File VIEWSE.ARC (4,268 bytes) in Library 1.

**BACCHUS WINE FORUM**
(GO WINEFORUM)

**Wine Book List**—A list of wine books. File WINE.BOK (2,435 bytes) in Library 3.

**BORLAND APPLICATIONS FORUM**
(GO BORAPP)

**Sidekick Plus Help**—A short description on how to use expanded memory with Sidekick Plus. File MEMORY (2,642 bytes) in Library 2.

**CD-ROM FORUM**
(GO CDROM)

**When to Buy**—A discussion about adding CD-ROM capability to an IBM PC or compatible system. File ADDGEN.TXT (4,282 bytes) in Library 4.

**COLOR COMPUTER FORUM**
(GO COCO)

**Picture Saver**—A small position-independent LOADM-able file that allows for loading and saving of .MGE pictures while in BASIC. Type EXEC:? for the command format. File BTOOL.BIN (897 bytes) in Library 2.

**CP/M FORUM**
(GO CPMFORUM)

**Library Manager**—NULU, a library management program for CP/M systems. Files NULU15.COM (15,360 bytes) and NULU15.DOC (documentation, 56,090 bytes) in Library 2.

**IBM APPLICATIONS FORUM**
(GO IBMAPP)

**File Chopper**—CHOP, a public-domain program that chops big files into smaller pieces. Output to any drive. File CHOP3.ARC (36,480 bytes) in Library 1.

**IBM NEW USERS FORUM**
(GO IBMNEW)

**Sounds Galore**—A sound effects program in BASIC for IBM PCs and compatibles. File SOUNDE.BAS (5,632 bytes) in Library 4.

**INVESTORS' FORUM**
(GO INVFORUM)

**Options Discussion**—A thread from the Investors' Forum message board about the pitfalls, mistakes and excitement that option trading can hold. File OPTION.ARC (10,451 bytes) in Library 3.

**TANDY PROFESSIONAL FORUM**
(GO TRS80PRO)

**Theme Music**—Theme from *Ghostbusters* with graphics and animation for IBM PCs and compatibles. File GBUST.ARC (9,259 bytes) in Library 6.

**TANDY MODEL 100 FORUM**
(GO M100SIG)

**Idea Organizer**—THINK.IT, a program that gives a Model 100 thought-processing capabilities. File THINK.IT (7,950 bytes) and THINK.DOC (documentation, 7,255 bytes) in Library 2.

**WORDPERFECT SUPPORT GROUP**
(GO WPSG)

**WordPerfect Macros**—WordPerfect 5.0 macros to quickly correct common typing errors, including omitting a space between words, transposing two characters, typing the wrong character, omitting a character, typing an extra character, not capitalizing a word, capitalizing too many letters in a word. Rename the long macro names to Alt-keys before use. Documentation is in WP 5.0 format. File TYPOS.ARC (5,214 bytes) in Library 0.

*David Peyton co-authored* How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe. *His CompuServe User ID number is 76703,244.*

# *Anime* Aficionados

## *Comic Book Forum Draws Japanimation Fans*

*by Doug Jackson*

Two young children fleeing the destructive firebombings of World War II. High-tech thieves skirmishing with police in a pollution-ruined world of the future. Players on the women's pro tennis circuit going for winners, both on and off the court. A young man with untested psychic powers battling demons and evil priests in a desperate bid to save humankind.

These may sound like four plot kernels from the most recent crop of Hollywood blockbusters, but they are all examples of *anime*—the affectionate slang term fans have applied to animated films, videos and TV shows from Japan. Anime boasts state-of-the-art visuals, digital soundtracks and storylines that cover the landscape of human (and sometimes non-human) experience.

"Fortunately, the Japanese never formed the opinion that animation was just for kids," says Steve Bennett, assistant forum administrator of Japanimation, the electronic niche for anime fans that is part of the Comics and Animation Forum (GO COMIC). "As a result, the industry over there isn't limited when it comes to subject matter. They're capable of producing animated movies every bit the equal of live-action films."

At one time the Japanimation section was part of the Science Fiction Forum, which also attracted people interested in comic books and animation. Eventually the Sci-Fi Forum split along visual/textual lines, and the visually oriented members formed the Comics and Animation Forum. About three years ago, Bennett, Tom Mitchell, Takayuki Karahashi and several other anime buffs started chatting online, and the Japanimation section was born.

The visual arts have always been big in Japan, and much of the inspiration for anime past and present can be attributed to a voracious appetite for *manga* (comic books). But the Japanese animation industry didn't really get under way until a manga artist named Osamu Tezuka turned his talents to animation in the early 1960s after seeing the works of Walt Disney.

"Tezuka must have seen *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* more than 50 times," mused Mitsuru Sugaya, himself a prize-winning manga artist. "He was spellbound; he couldn't believe how beautiful and smooth the animation was."

Tezuka eventually produced two television series—"Astro Boy" and "Kimba the White Lion"—that appeared in the United States, giving Americans their first taste of anime. Other series followed, most of them featuring impressively complex robots with incredible powers but also occasional failings, both mechanical and emotional.

The most recent of these series, "Robotech," is actually a combination of several shows. Because of this emphasis on robotry, science and fantasy, most people think that is all there is to Japanese animation. As the previous examples showed, however, that just isn't true.

**State-of-the-art visuals with sophisticated storylines:** *Japanese animation*

Some anime, in fact, is definitely for mature audiences only. "I've seen anime that would make Fritz the Cat blush," says Mitchell, referring to Ralph Bakshi's earthy creation of the '70s. Mitchell, one of the original founders of the anime section of the Comics and Animation Forum and also the administrator of the Art Gallery Forum, adds, "One of the things I respect about anime is that it shows the consequences of death, sex and violence. Guns kill people, sex strains relationships, and if people drive drunk they may die. Some anime makers are even willing to let main characters die, despite their popularity. You would never see that in American animation."

Comparisons between anime and the works of Disney are inevitable, but anime devotees say that the latter no longer possesses the passion needed to produce superior films. The general consensus is that while Disney features, especially those of the '40s and '50s, have smoother action and a more realistic feel, anime wins hands down where depth and range are concerned.

Chris Swett, a writer and anime fan, says, "The Japanese draw fewer *cels*—acetate sheets on which one "frame" each of an animated feature is inked. So the flow of motion suffers." Sugaya says that most Japanese animation companies are small and operating on limited budgets, and that directors of anime also prefer to use stop motion and camera angles to compensate for the lack of cels.

"When Toei (a major Japanese filmmaker) was producing anime, they had big budgets and made beautiful films," he says. "Money makes a big difference." The impact of anime films is still extremely high, though, and even professionals, such as Rick Sternbach, the senior illustrator on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, admire the design elements and sheer creativity found in anime. "We've even drawn inspiration for some of the designs used on *Star Trek* from anime," he says. "Members of our technical crew are anime fans, too."

The unmoderated weekly anime conferences held in the Comics and

Animation Forum on Sundays (9 p.m. Eastern time in Room 5) attract a quick-witted group of CompuServe members with diverse backgrounds, among them a naval lieutenant, the make-up artist for the TV series "Matlock," a computer salesman and a chip designer. Bennett says, "The forum is an invaluable information resource for importing reviews and descriptions of shows. Most of the disks and tapes we get are from mail-order houses that specialize in Japanese imports, so the films are neither dubbed nor subtitled." He adds, though, that anime relies heavily on visual presentation, so the basic plot can be followed without knowing the language.

An English-language magazine for anime fans called *Animag* contains plot synopses and even some dialogue from selected anime features to help make plot twists and character motivations clearer for those who aren't satisfied with just the basics.

*Anime Stuff*, an electronic newsletter by Tom Mitchell in the Comics and Animation Forum Library 5, gives reviews of both the programs and the resulting soundtracks. According to Bennett, there are at least a few thousand anime fans in about 50 local groups around the United States, so there is an audience for it all.

Some basic terms that every anime fan knows are OAV (original animation video), BGM (background music) and *manga* (Japanese comic books). OAVs bypass the theaters, appearing directly on videodiscs and tapes, and are sometimes part of a series. The background music, which ranges from free-form mood music to jazz to classical and everywhere in between, is recorded by top musicians. Some of it is nearly as popular as the programs themselves.

For a glimpse of the visuals that make anime so riveting, there are GIF (graphics interchange format) files in Libraries 11 and 14, including one of the CompuServe Anime Group jacket created by Rick Sternbach, which features the voluptuous, green-haired character Lum (yes, she's a girl, but she's got horns!).

The anime section of the forum recently held its first awards ceremony, sponsored by *Anime Stuff*. Where was it held? In "beautiful downtown Mega-Tokyo at the wonderful Genom Pyramid Tower," of course!

*Doug Jackson is a free-lance writer and editor living in Tokyo. His CompuServe User ID number is 76004,2312.*

## Tests and Trivia Prep the Brain For ACT, SAT Exams

*by Cathryn Conroy*

Performing well on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and the American College Test (ACT) can mean the difference between acceptance at a first-choice college and having to settle for second best. Yet many students are unprepared simply because these examinations are unlike other tests they have taken.

Students can visit *The Multiple Choice* for tests, trivia and games that stimulate the brain and pique the imagination. Besides being educational and offering practice for the battery of college admission tests your teen-ager faces, *The Multiple Choice* is fun.

Available online are questions from previous Board of Regents Exams, which are required of all students in the state of New York for high school graduation. Taking these tests in mathematics, biology, chemistry, earth science, physics and social studies is excellent preparation for the SAT and ACT (especially the mathematics section) as well as achievement tests in individual subject areas. (Of course, New York students will find this area indispensable for Regents Exam study.)

Greg Bean, information provider for *The Multiple Choice*, is convinced of the value of preparation for the various standardized tests. He says that, although the Educational Testing Service and the College Board have claimed for decades that SAT scores cannot be significantly improved through coaching, the Princeton Review (one of the SAT preparation schools) has proved them wrong.

Says Bean, "Students can learn to do better on these tests in the same way they learn to do better on English or physics tests: by studying the material that will be on the test."

If your teen-ager did poorly on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, take it as a warning, advises Bean and encourage preparation for the SAT—the one that really counts.

The Regents questions in *The Multiple Choice* run the gamut from easy to difficult and not only challenge your teen-ager but also offer valuable information on specific subject areas that might need more study. Each test contains 50 questions designed to prove that the high school senior is minimally competent and has attained minimal achievement standards for courses taken in grades nine through 12. Those who take the tests online in *The Multiple Choice* receive instant feedback on how well they did and how they compare with others who have taken the tests. Those who do very well on the test can earn a place in the electronic honor roll of top scorers posted at the start of each exam in *The Multiple Choice*.

The questions are relevant to today's teens. For instance, the first Regents exam administered in 1866 asked students to calculate the following: "In exchanging gold dust for cotton, by what weight would each be weighed?" Today's tests also focus on problem-solving, but like this: "Daryl bought an album that cost $7.89. If he gave the cashier a $20 bill, how much change should he have received?"

Other tests and games in *The Multiple Choice* also can help your college-bound teen-ager learn how to take a standardized test successfully. *Stage II Trivia* allows several players to pit their trivia skills against one another. The computer asks a half-dozen questions with a theme, such as: Who starred in the remake of the film *The Razor's Edge*? What can be seen flying 24 hours a day at Fort McHenry? Who calls such rules infractions as "offside" and "clipping"? The answers are Bill Murray, the US flag and a football referee. It's your job to figure out the theme, which, in this case, is stripes.

The *IQ Challenge* will stretch your teen-ager's ability to recall important facts and compute basic math problems. Near what continent is Madagascar located? Who wrote *Paradise Lost?* How many artichokes can Mortimer buy for $7.10 if one artichoke costs $1.42?

Dozens of other games for youth, teens and adults are in *The Multiple Choice*. To find out more, type GO TMC.

*Cathryn Conroy is a contributing editor of* Online Today. *Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007,417.*

# Online Rail Buffs Make Connections

*by Mike Pietruk*

Millions of enthusiasts relive the glory days of a bygone era through the hobby of railroading. "Railfans" enjoy collecting memorabilia such as timetables and equipment rosters or spend their weekends on excursions riding restored locomotives. "Modelers" occupy their free hours building scaled replicas of their favorite engines and running them on layouts that range from simple ones fitting on a tabletop to elaborate constructions encompassing an entire basement.

Modelers have varying interests. One group—the live steam people—uses steam instead of electric motors to power their engines, which are exact reproductions of the full-sized prototype. These concerns and countless others are represented in one of the newer forums on CompuServe, TrainNet (GO TRAINNET).

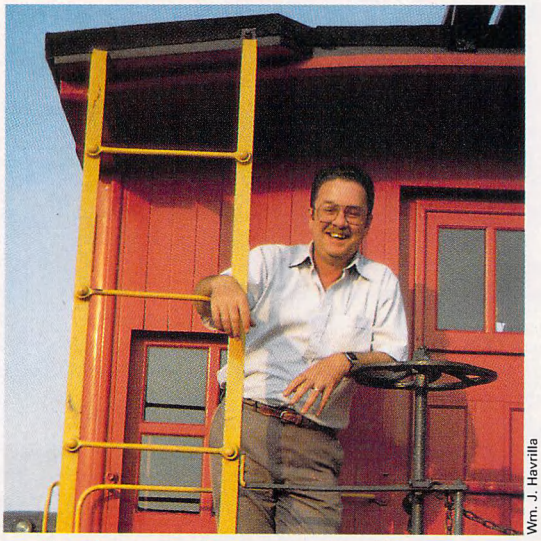
TrainNet's roots extend to December 1986 as a single message section and library in the ModelNet Forum. Interest grew quickly, and the initial model train section was soon joined by one for railfans. "The growth was phenomenal," says ModelNet Forum Administrator Doug Pratt. "It was clear that rail buffs deserved a meeting place of their own, so we spun off TrainNet as an independent forum managed by Dorr Altizer.

"Having a separate forum gives us the opportunity to cover all the diverse aspects of the hobby with message sections and libraries specifically dedicated to them: locomotives, rolling stock, operations, layout construction, narrow gauge, tinplate and LGB, scenery and structures, photography and model electronics."

While longtime railfans and modelers will immediately feel at home, newcomers to the hobby will find numerous library files to get them on the right track. The most popular of these is Library 1's MRTUTR.TXT, an extensive collection of messages from the ModelNet days covering many of the questions frequently posed by beginners. Altizer points out a series of tutorials prepared by assistant administrators Bill Havrilla (photography and painting) and Jeff Kucsma (various aspects of railroad modeling). All contain the .TXT extension in their file names and can be quickly located in their appropriate libraries by typing BRO *.TXT at any LIB prompt.

Library 3 is a handy reference resource for novices and oldtimers alike. Of particular note are the 60 files listing hobby shops and retailers carrying railroading supplies. All file names begin with RRSTOR and have a two-letter suffix designating the post office for that state or Canadian province (for example, RRSTOR.IL is the Illinois supplies directory). Those who take model trains seriously might consider joining one or more of the many historical or technical societies mentioned in RRHSTS.DOC or subscribe to a magazine or two suggested in RRMAG.TXT.

Although library files alone would more than justify visiting TrainNet, a far better reason is the opportunity to chat with its knowledgeable members in the twice monthly conferences and via the message board. Hobbyists will recognize the names of several TrainNet members, including Cliff Robinson, one of the grand old men of model railroading from the 1940s and 1950s; and Ben Friedland, owner of the Morristown and Erie Railroad, the last line to have a fleet of ALCO engines.



Wm. J. Havrilla

**Keeping enthusiasts on track:** *Altizer*

Though perhaps less well-known, a more frequent visitor is Ed Hein. "I stop by two or three times a week to find out what's happening with the prototype railroads, get the latest news and share information with others. It usually takes a few months for the magazines to print the news, and the general media is less reliable. With TrainNet, I learn what's happening as it occurs from the people who know it best, the active modelers and fans."

"Through TrainNet, I've met people from across the country with whom I now regularly trade slides, timetables and information," says forum member Dave Snowden. "Part of the fun is meeting others new to the hobby and being able to pass on a tip or two. The folks here are collectively a pool of experience and knowledge that I doubt can be matched in any other group."

Most modelers and railfans are active traders, always on the lookout for items to add to their collections. "We encourage members to leave general messages stating what equipment or items one has or needs," says Altizer. "However, we request that the finalization of any transaction having a monetary value take place privately using either EasyPlex or the telephone, as CompuServe policy forbids the use of forums for solicitations or advertising."

Online conferences are held the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 9 p.m. Eastern time. Topics range from open subject gabfests to discussions of railfanning, construction layouts and photography. Transcripts of many conferences dating back to 1986 are saved in Library 1. The information might appear dated at times, as a lot of modelers and railfans think the world froze in time in 1955 or earlier," laughs Altizer.

Editors, publishers and writers of magazines for train enthusiasts often participate in forum discussions. Among those online are Ed Stauss, editor of Challenge Publications' *Rail Classics*; Myron Biggar of *O Scale Railroading*; Richard Dermody, coordinator of a computer special interest group of the National Model Railroad Association; and Robert Pinsky, national director of the National Railway Historical Society and editor of its Chicago chapter newsletter.

Probably the best description of TrainNet is offered by ModelNet's Pratt: "The forum is a combination trade show, club meeting and hobby shop. It enables members to sort through the myriad of gear available (the *Walther's Catalog,* for example, is the size of the New York City telephone directory) and obtain advice from the friendliest folks around."

*Mike Pietruk is a forum administrator of CompuServe's Investors' Forum and an assistant vice president of Preferred Savings & Loan in Chicago. His CompuServe User ID number is 76703,4346.*

**A place where change is a constant and things are not as they appear to be:** *Walt Disney World*

# The Wonder of It All

## *Walt Disney World Delights All Ages with Fantasy, Technology*

*by James Moran*

It is the most popular vacation destination in the world. Although it contains a close copy of the original Magic Kingdom in California and has inspired a couple of clones (one in Tokyo and the yet-to-be-designed park in Europe), Walt Disney World is one of a kind.

Many seasoned Disney vacationers may think they know all there is to know about Walt Disney World, but even the most knowledgeable among them often are surprised on a return visit. Change is constant and many things simply are not as they seem to be. For instance, have you ever been on the second floor of the Magic Kingdom? And if you have, do you really know what's at ground level?

### On the Road to Orlando

As they say, getting there is half the fun. And the road to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., is ... a road. Surprisingly, the majority of visitors arrive by car. That is a lot of driving miles considering that more than 30 million guests explored Walt Disney World last year.

Most visitors who do not drive arrive by commercial airline. Nearby Orlando International Airport has greatly expanded from its sleepy beginnings when Walt Disney first began buying central Florida orange groves. Bus, taxi and limo services to Walt Disney World are available from the terminals.

Disney has been careful to assure that handicapped guests have access to virtually all facilities. Special arrangements can be made to transport handicapped guests from arrival areas, such as the airport, as well as to handle other handicapped travel requests. Yellow Cab provides wheelchair lifts and taxi vans that have storage space for wheelchairs. As with all special services, it is best to call ahead so that equipment is available when you arrive at the airport.

### Reserving the World

If you are planning to stay at a Walt Disney World Resort hotel, you will almost certainly need a reservation. While off-property hotels often are just as luxurious, official Disney hotels are still the most popular places to stay. So you should make reservations at least a year in advance to assure a stay at the hotel you choose. However, some rooms become available at the last moment. If you are staying at an off-property hotel or motel and would like to extend your vacation at one of Disney's themed properties, it may be possible to get a room early in the day.

Reservations for all hotels and villas within Walt Disney World can be obtained by calling 407-W-DISNEY. If you make your own Disney hotel reservations, it is a good idea to make reservations for dinner shows at the same time. While it is virtually impossible to have a bad time at Walt Disney World, no matter which hotel or show you choose, the services of a travel agent can be helpful when choosing among the many excellent options.

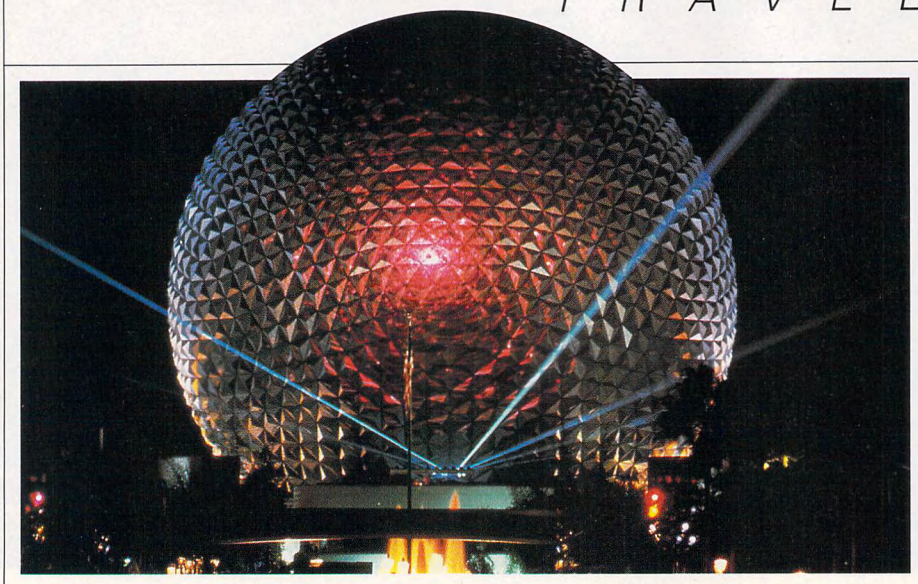
On CompuServe, accommodation information for on-property hotels can be found online through Discover Orlando (GO ORLANDO). The service also can provide information for airfare, car rentals and other area attractions.

### Where in the World to Stay

At long last, moderately priced vacations have returned to Walt Disney World. No, ticket prices for the Magic Kingdom have not gone down nor have gourmet meals suddenly become more affordable in the EPCOT World Showcase. But with the opening of Disney's Caribbean Beach Resort hotel, more than 2,100 rooms are available and more are due to open soon. The Caribbean Beach makes it possible to stay at a Disney property hotel while keeping within a moderate budget. Daily room rates range from $65 to $95, and up to four people—five with an infant crib—can stay in one room.

The atmosphere at the Caribbean Beach is relaxing. Featuring a festive tropical setting with lush foliage and brilliant colors, the resort's villages are themed to match the style of various Caribbean Islands. If you are bringing children on your visit, they may prefer the Caribbean Beach to the other Disney hotels. Although this hotel is not on the monorail loop that services the Magic Kingdom, EPCOT and most of the other Disney hotels, free and efficient Disney bus transportation is available.

Disney's Grand Floridian Beach Resort hotel, which opened in 1988, features verandas, crystal chandeliers and a number of excellent restaurants. The most recognized of the new Disney hotels (it was featured in the back-



**World showcase of future technology and international culture:** *EPCOT Center*

ground of the Beach Boys *Kokomo* music video), it is also the most expensive. Daily room rates range from $185 to $295, but guests are usually overwhelmed by the rooms, the service and the atmosphere. Even if you don't stay at the Grand Floridian, it is worth the experience to walk the grounds or eat at one of its restaurants.

Older but still popular Disney hotels continue to offer guests a variety of themes and prices. The Disney Inn, Polynesian Village Resort, Contemporary Resort and Disney Village Resort Villas provide lodging with most rates falling between those of the two newest hotels. For those who want to rough it Disney style, campsites—some with permanent mobile homes—are available at moderate rates in Disney's Fort Wilderness Campground.

### Phone Home

Walt Disney World may be the only resort in the world that has complete control over its own telephone network. The Disney-owned Vista United Telecommunications Co. provides service for guests. Unlike many resorts, there is no access charge for guests and all long-distance calls are placed through the AT&T network.

If you are traveling with a portable computer and a modem, you will find that connecting your modem to the Vista network is simple as guest rooms have been rewired with modular phone jacks.

### Paying the Piper

Admission prices for Walt Disney World vary depending on the attractions you want to see. If you have only a day to explore, you may want to purchase an individual ticket good only at either the Magic Kingdom or EPCOT. A better buy than the $29 adult single-day, one park admission ticket is a four- or five-day Worldpassport ticket. Priced at $97 and $112 respectively, a Worldpassport gives guests unlimited admission to the Magic Kingdom, EPCOT and Disney/MGM Studios. (Quoted ticket prices do not include the 6 percent Florida tax.)

Children's admission prices are about 20 percent less, and resort guests enjoy a slight discount over regular prices. Other price reductions are available for hotels, admissions and merchandise if you belong to the Magic Kingdom Club. Many employers can provide free membership, so be sure to check to see if yours is among them.

### What in the World to See

All visitors to Walt Disney World should spend at least some time in the Magic Kingdom. Most guests don't realize that they enter the park on the second level. When the Magic Kingdom was constructed, the first "floor" was built and subsequently covered over. This raised structure (you can perceive the construction if you get a good view of the Magic Kingdom from outside the park) was then used as the base for what most of us think is ground level. It is the first level that contains much of the technical magic that keeps the Magic Kingdom operating smoothly.

For those who like to plan each day to the smallest detail, there are a number of guides to Walt Disney World that can help. One that is available at many bookstores around the United States, and is prominently displayed at many Walt Disney World shops, is *Steve Birnbaum Brings You the Best of Walt Disney World.*

New to Walt Disney World (it opened May 1, 1989) is the Disney-MGM Studios, reachable by bus from both the Magic Kingdom and EPCOT. Here visitors can witness the filming of actual Disney movies and take a two- to three-hour trip through an authentic production facility or a 42-minute adventure on "The Great Movie Ride."

Nearby, Typhoon Lagoon, a themed water-entertainment area, allows visitors to snorkel among tropical fish, plummet down the flumes and streams of a volcanic mountain, and ride the waves of the world's largest inland surfing lagoon.

Pleasure Island, a themed "abandoned waterfront district" that houses six nightclubs (including a high-tech teen club), six restaurants, a dozen shops, a 10-screen theater complex and streetside entertainment, opened in June. Those who think Disney entertainment is too quiet in the evening hours undoubtedly will change their minds.

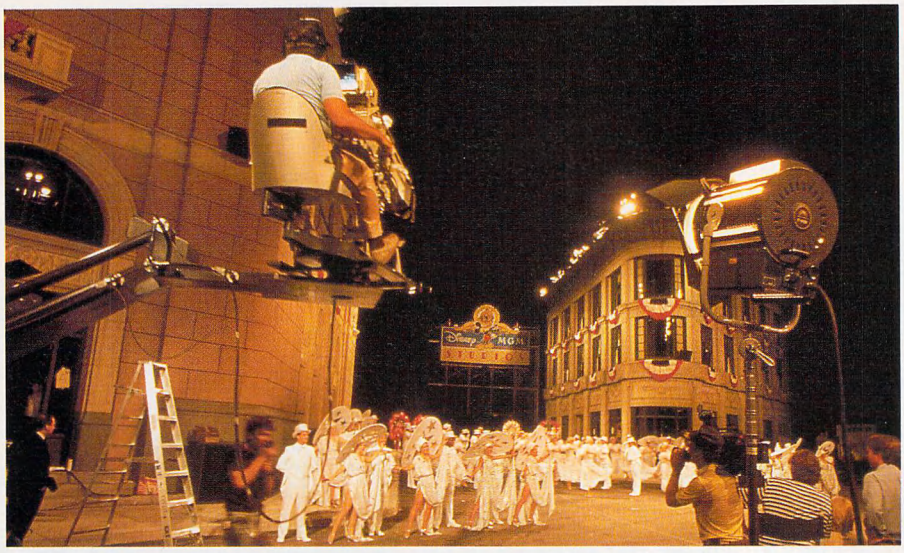
EPCOT Center is a 260-acre international exposition with two main divisions: Future World, showcasing technologies of the future, and World Showcase, presenting the culture, entertainment, crafts and architecture of many nations. Currently, 11 countries surround the World Showcase Lagoon. While they are trained by Disney personnel, most World Showcase workers are citizens of the countries they represent.

The World Showcase is well-known for more than the countries that surround it. It is the sight of what must be the most spectacular sound, light and fireworks extravaganza since the creation of the universe. "Illuminations" is one of life's truly indescribable events and compares to a mere Fourth of July celebration about the way a volcano compares to a bonfire. Don't miss it.

### Behind the Scenes

Wonders of Walt Disney World is a fresh, exciting approach that helps young visitors, aged 10 to 15, find new interests and discover new talents. The one-day classes are limited to 15 children each, and reservations must be made well in advance of your arrival. Many schools offer credit for these classes.

After a short opening session, each class climbs aboard its own van with a Disney instructor. Three children's



**Witness filming of actual Disney movies:** *Disney-MGM Studios*

programs are available: "Exploring Nature," "Disney Creative Arts" and "Walt Disney World of Entertainment." All of these classes give children access to areas that guests do not normally have. Instructors are Disney scientists, engineers, artists and performers. Depending on the class, students go backstage to meet and speak with professional entertainers, explore the 7,500-acre Disney conservation area or meet the artists who work behind the scenes.

Adults also can participate in organized learning. Some of the programs even provide advanced college credit. Two programs, "Marketing the Good News about Schools" and "Communicating Disney Style," analyze Disney's approach to marketing, communication, publicity and entertainment, and apply those skills to the classroom and to community relations.

Walt Disney Seminar Productions also can arrange other seminars for adults. "Innovation in Action" is a half-day behind-the-scenes exploration of the way Disney operates a large-scale entertainment complex. "The Show Behind the Show" is a half-day seminar that takes guests backstage to see how the Disney magic is created on-stage.

Other seminars include tours that focus on the unique landscape of EPCOT or examine the customs, art, architecture, costumes and entertainment of the nations that make up the World Showcase. Information on these and other adult seminar programs can be requested when you make your hotel reservation.

### Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

Looking to the future, Walt Disney Imagineers are designing and building even more exotic forms of education, entertainment and just plain fun.

Scheduled to open this fall is The Wonders of Life Pavilion in EPCOT. This multimillion-dollar exhibit will feature Body Wars, a simulated ride through the human bloodstream, and a true-to-life film on childbirth.

Over the next few years even more on-site Disney hotels will be available for guests, and Florida's largest convention hotel complex will be opening. The Walt Disney World Dolphin will contain more than 1,500 rooms in a distinctive 26-story structure that is scheduled to open in 1990. The Walt Disney World Swan Resort, a smaller facility with 767 guest rooms, will open later this year.

No matter when you last visited Walt Disney World, it will have changed since then. And if you have never been there, just wait until you arrive. For no matter how many times friends describe their exploration of EPCOT, no matter how many travel brochures you read about the sumptuous lodging at the Grand Floridian, you'll never truly understand the wonder of it all until you travel from your world to Walt Disney World.

*James Moran is a free-lance writer and frequent contributor to* Online Today. *His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,2253.*

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A79OT

## Online Reference Areas

**Q: I like to keep abreast of the latest updates or advancements of my personal computer. Can I do this efficiently online without subscribing to numerous magazines?**

**A:** The Computer Library (GO COMPLIB) is an excellent reference resource for the computer user. Computer Database Plus, the first in what will be a family of online services, offers more than 130 magazines, newspapers and journal titles. More than 100,000 articles are available in summary and/or full text and are updated weekly for the most current information possible. Almost 45 percent of the articles contain full text. *Communications of the ACM*, *MacUser* and *PC Week* are just a few of the full-text selections currently available. The Computer Library has a connect surcharge of $24 per hour, and a transactions surcharge of $1 per abstract and $1.50 per full-text article.

**Q: I'm thinking of buying a new camera. Can I find information online to guide me in my purchase?**

**A:** *Consumer Reports* (GO CONSUMER), now on CompuServe, allows you to review specific product/service reports that have appeared in *Consumer Reports* magazine. Articles include a discussion of what to look for in a product and recommendations from Consumers Union. Reports are divided into four categories—Appliances, Automobiles, Electronics/Cameras and Home—and are arranged alphabetically within each category. Reports are removed when the information is outdated. The reports are surcharged. For more details, type GO PHOTOFORUM.

**Q: My child needs accurate, current information for his school papers. The information in our set of encyclopedias often is outdated. Can CompuServe help?**

**A:** CompuServe offers all 21 volumes of the widely acclaimed *Grolier's Online Academic American Encyclopedia* (GO AAE), the first entirely new encyclopedia to be published in more than a decade. It has more than 9 million words in more than 31,000 articles and features article outlines, fact boxes, tables, cross references and bibliographies. The most exciting feature of the online encyclopedia is its frequent updating. Topics too current to be found in most printed encyclopedias, such as videodisc, *perestroika*, AIDS and Chuck Berry, can be found online in *Grolier's Encyclopedia*. (See the Grolier's Encyclopedia special nine-month offer on page 17 of this issue.) The service is offered by subscription for one month, six months or one year.

**Q: Is there a service online where my child can find reference materials instead of going to the library?**

**A:** IQuest (GO IQUEST), one of the most comprehensive reference services available, offers access to more than 850 databases covering a wide range of subjects—from current events and history to popular and hard sciences. Sources for the databases include encyclopedias, newspapers, popular magazines and professional research papers as well as statistical data. Databases contain either full-text entries, abstracts or bibliographic references of the source materials. If you need assistance, type SOS and a trained researcher will come online and provide suggestions. Full pricing information is available from the IQuest menu.

**Q: Can CompuServe provide references to books?**

**A:** The Book Review Digest (GO BRD) provides references to more than 26,000 fiction and non-fiction English language books. Reviews are drawn from more than 80 American, Canadian and British periodicals covering general and social sciences, humanities and general reference. Reviews date back to April 1983 and are updated twice weekly.

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The response always has been positive. For example, a member sent me a series of radio reports following a recent request. In addition, several other forum members sent suggestions for improving the use of audio inserts in network radio news.

My projects get wide exposure and there always has been someone out there who is willing to help.

Larry L. Burriss
Assistant Professor,
Mass Communications
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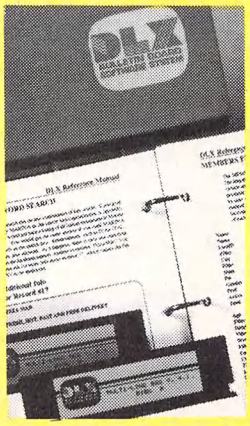

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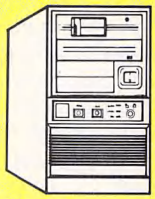

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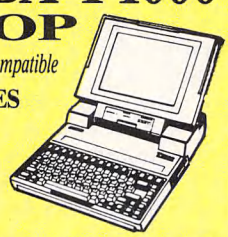

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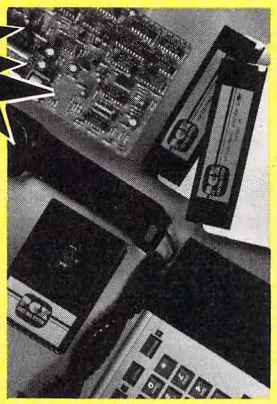

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**Computers:** IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT, PS/2 and compatibles; also available for Apple and Apple Macintosh computers.
**Operating System:** PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or higher.
**Media:** Supplied on 5.25-inch diskettes; available on 3.5-inch diskettes; requires one diskette drive.
**Copy Protection:** None.
**Required Peripherals:** Serial or parallel printer.
**Other Requirements:** None.
**Optional Items:** None.
**Systems used for test:** (1) 640K Compaq Deskpro 286 with one 1.2MB diskette drive, one 360K diskette drive, one 20MB hard disk running MS-DOS 3.3. (2) Two 640K Compaq Portable computers, one with 30MB hard disk running MS-DOS 3.3; one with 10MB hard disk running MS-DOS 2.1. (3) 640K IBM 286 compatible with one 1.2MB diskette drive, one 360K diskette drive, 20MB hard disk; running MS-DOS 3.3. (4) Hewlett-Packard LaserJet Series I printer with serial port. (5) Epson T-700 printer with parallel port.
**List Price:** $179 for four-port version; $199 for six-port version.

*Reviewed by Harry Green*

In any office where there are more people than printers and no local area network, printer sharing causes frustration. Everyone needs access to the laser printer and the wide-carriage dot matrix, so the choices narrow to disk passing or the dangers of an A/B switch.

The word "danger" isn't overstating the case. With some laser printers it is possible to damage chips in the interface board when mechanically switching the printer between computers.

SmartPrint/Laser Sharing System is a printer-sharing device that scans the attached ports looking for a print signal. When it finds one, it pauses to connect the computer to the printer long enough to print the file, and it then resumes scanning. All this occurs without any switches to throw or special instructions to send.

SmartPrint comes with software that buffers printed output to either RAM or a hard disk. If the printer is busy, the buffer holds the data until SmartPrint resumes scanning. The user isn't aware of the buffering, and there is no need for users to communicate whether or not the printer is busy. Although SmartPrint works equally well with no buffering, users then must manually queue themselves to share the printer.

SmartPrint comes in two versions, serial and parallel, and two sizes, four-port and six-port. Both versions were tested in this review, using a six-port serial and a four-port parallel unit.

All connections are made with DB-25 connectors, which are the large connectors used with many RS-232C devices. An LED is mounted on the face of the unit beside each DB-25 connector. When the printer is idle, SmartPrint is in a scanning mode. When a port is seized, scanning stops, and the lighted LED shows which port is connected.

The parallel version requires a DB-25 to Centronics adapter cable and DB-25 conductor cables to the computer. The serial version can operate with as few as four wires from the unit to the computers. Modular telephone to DB-25 adapters can be plugged into both the SmartPrint and computer, and the connection then can be made with a modular telephone cord.

The manufacturer's literature states that SmartPrint contains a line driver capable of operating over telephone wiring up to 1,000 feet. Because my office is much smaller than this, the distance limits weren't tested. As a practical matter, printers usually are within easy walking distance of the computers they serve, but recommend that anyone planning a wire run of more than 200 or 300 feet test SmartPrint first because there is a danger that data will be corrupted by noise.

The parallel unit worked fine the first time it was turned on, connected between IBM-compatible computers and an Epson T-700 printer. Despite the name of the product, which implies that SmartPrint/Laser Sharing System is intended for laser printers, it works fine with dot matrix printers. The only disadvantage of the parallel unit is the physical bulk of the cables. Where the serial unit can operate over extended distance with four wires, the parallel unit is limited to normal parallel printer distances.

I encountered minor problems with the serial version. When I first connected it between IBM-compatible computers and a LaserJet Series I printer, it refused to function. The problem turned out to be simple; I had used a cable with a built-in turnover between the transmit and receive leads. Although the manual doesn't indicate it, the Dresselhaus technical support person told me that SmartPrint also has a turnover. Using a straight cable solved the problem.

The SmartPrint units are well worth their cost. They are easy to set up, and after they are installed they can be ignored. Users can turn their computers on and off at will without affecting other users connected to the units, and there are no switches to throw. For an office where several people need to share the same printer, these units are highly recommended.

*Harry Green is a free-lance writer from Portland, Ore. He writes about telecommunications, office automation and personal computer-related topics. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,431.*

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# Thunderware's LightningScan

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**Computers:** Apple Macintosh II, Macintosh SE and Macintosh Plus.
**Operating System:** Macintosh System 6.02 or later; Finder 6.1 or later.
**Features:** External SCSI controller with terminator, cable and plug-in power supply; handheld scanner features viewing window, dither/line art selection switch, brightness dial, resolution switch, scan button and guide roller; selectable 100, 200, 300 and 400 dpi resolutions; yellow-green dropout color; net point, concentration net point and balance net point dither patterns; 32-level gray-scale converted to 6-by-6 half-tone dither; 16-level actual gray shade derived from half-tone dither; 4.1-inch maximum scan width; software includes an application program and a desk accessory.
**Options:** Macintosh-compatible printer; desktop publishing, word processing or graphics applications capable of accepting Paint, PICT, TIFF, encapsulated PostScript or ThunderScan file formats.
**Model Tested:** LightningScan connected to 5MB Macintosh IIcx having FDHD diskette drive, 40MB hard disk, Apple Extended Keyboard, AppleColor High-Resolution RGB Monitor and 256-color Macintosh II Video Card; running System 6.03 and Finder 6.1.
**List Price:** $549

*Reviewed by Ernest E. Mau*

When I opened LightningScan's box, I found a handheld scanner that looked much like a Logitech ScanMan I use on an IBM-compatible computer (see file SMAN89.MAR in the *Online Today* Readers' Forum, GO OLTFORUM, Library 5). The scanning head was the same size and shape, with the same viewing window and controls.

Like the ScanMan, LightningScan is a compact, convenient device for making computer-displayable images from hard copy. Those are usable by desktop publishers and other programs.

LightningScan features selectable resolutions of 100, 200, 300 or 400 dots per inch. However, I rarely use anything but 400 dpi because it is best for gray-scale conversions.

LightningScan scans a swath 4.1 inches wide, with the scan length limited only by the amount of Macintosh memory available to hold the image. A 400 dpi side-to-side scan of a picture postcard uses about 10 percent of my computer's 5MB memory. If an original is wider than 4.1 inches, separate images from multiple passes may be assembled in third-party paint programs.

The scanning "head" fits easily in the hand, with an activation button under a right-handed person's thumb. Scanning occurs when the button is pressed and held. When the scanner is placed at one edge of the original and moved to the other, a large roller stabilizes the head, and a full-width window shows what is passing beneath.

Like any handheld scanner, moving LightningScan correctly takes practice. Best results are obtained from smooth scanning motions. Recommended speeds vary from 3.1 inches per second at 100 dpi to 0.7 inch per second at 400 dpi. Thunderware's software even beeps to alert the user if something is scanned too quickly. Originals must be flat, and putting a thin plexiglas sheet over small originals prevents irregularities from dropping the scanner's roller or glides off an edge. A firm but not too heavy touch is necessary. Pressing too hard or moving the head too slowly contributes to uneven motion and poor images, particularly on high-gloss surfaces.

Low-quality originals can be corrected somewhat with Lightningscan's brightness control. Differences between photographs, printed half-tones and solid lines are accommodated with a four-position dither/line art switch that adjusts the image's coarseness. Except for line art, I always use the smallest dither, finding the others too coarse for my needs.

Thunderware provides both application and desk accessory software. Although either can be used for scanning, their postprocessing capabilities differ. So both the application and desk accessory are needed. It isn't unusual to capture an image with one, transfer the image and use the other for further processing. For example, the desk accessory can fit, flip or rotate images, but the application software cannot. Rotating is particularly important when side-to-side scanning is needed instead of top-to-bottom scanning to fit the original.

However, the application software provides adjustments for brightness, contrast, gray mapping, scan line repairing, pencil drawing, erasing, "fat bits" manipulation, image inversion, printing and other functions not in the desk accessory. The controls here make it easy to correct some images without rescanning.

Both the application and desk accessory can make gray-scale images, and both do that well. Gray-scaled images even hold up well when resized or rescaled. But scanning, and gray-scaling in particular, works best for originals having strong contrast. If tones change too gradually, LightningScan's limited scaling (16 discrete levels emulating 32 levels) lets areas of similar tones "block" solidly. This is especially noticeable in "people pictures" where skin tones don't yield good scans. I also suspect the yellow-green scanner light contributes to losses in flesh colors from color originals. Color scenics usually scan well, but people images are best obtained from black-and-white originals.

Still, LightningScan's yellow-green dropout light seems more appropriate than ScanMan's red light. There may be losses in shades of yellow and green close to LightningScan's light color, but they're not as disturbing as ScanMan's complete loss of reds and partial losses of oranges and yellows. And LightningScan's few color dropouts seem to disappear into the tonal blocking already mentioned.

To put an image into a document, Thunderware's software accommodates popular file formats. The application software can save images in Scan Image format, as Paint documents, as Draw (PICT) documents, as PostScript (EPSF) files or in tagged image file format (TIFF). The desk accessory provides Scan Image, MacPaint and TIFF file formats.

LightningScan is appealing for quick scanning. It won't match a 256-gray flatbed scanner, but it isn't meant to compete with that kind of unit. For the price, LightningScan does well. Yet similar devices cost less than $350 for IBM-compatible computers, so scanning with a Macintosh does cost more than scanning with an IBM PC.

GIF illustrations for this review can be found in the Online Today Forum (GO OLTFORUM) Library 6.

*Ernest E. Mau,* Online Today *reviews editor, is a free-lance writer and editor who has been using microcomputers since 1978 and writing about them since 1980.*

**GO OLI for more information.**

## Time$heet Professional

***Time-and-Expense Tracking Software***

Software Partners
999 Commercial St.
Palo Alto, CA 94303
415/857-1110
Fax: 415/949-3365

**Computer:** IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT, PS/2 and compatibles.
**Operating Systems:** PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or higher.
**Media:** Supplied on 5.25-inch diskettes; also available on 3.5-inch diskettes on request.
**Copy Protection:** User name and company must be entered during initial installation; copies made before that will not run.
**Required Peripherals:** Hard disk is strongly recommended.
**Other Requirements:** Minimum 512K RAM.
**Optional Items:** Printer.
**System used for test:** IBM PC-XT with 1MB Quad 386XT Accelerator Board, two 360K diskette drives, Control Data 30MB hard disk, Hercules Graphics Card Plus, LaserJet Series II printer and Okidata 293 printer; running PC-DOS 3.1.
**List Price:** $149.95

*Reviewed by William J. Lynott*

Keeping track of expenses and time spent on specific cases or projects still is a paper-and-pencil job in many professional offices. Carrying a small notebook and making entries a few times a day is the time-honored system used by many lawyers, accountants, architects and other professionals.

But once an office grows so a number of people are working concurrently on different projects, or even when a professional working alone keeps large numbers of projects going, the right computer-based recordkeeping system can be a great productivity booster.

Time$heet Professional (version 1.0) is designed for just that purpose. It is an easily used program that can be mastered in an hour or so by anyone with a basic knowledge of microcomputers. The only exception I found was in the installation process. It is automated and straightforward, except that a text or line editor is needed to modify the computer's AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files. This is a simple job for an experienced IBM PC user, but may cause rapid pulse beats for a beginner.

There are only four basic screens in Time$heet Professional: Time Sheet, Summary Report, Detail Report and Setup. The latter lets you change program defaults such as hourly billing rates. Two additional screens are available for importing and exporting data from or to other programs.

Program use centers on the time sheet display. It displays a full week at once and allows for entries of time spent, expenses and freeform notes for each project each day.

Items to be tracked are set up in the program as "tasks." Each task has user-controlled components such as client, project, activity, location or other parameters appropriate to the user's needs. Up to five dimensions can be assigned to each task, giving Time$heet Professional enough flexibility to handle time-and-expense tracking for just about any professional office.

A user name must be entered for each person who will use the program once it has been installed. This lets Time$heet Professional track data for any number of users within the same office. User names may be modified at any time, and changing a user name on the time sheet changes it on all associated data. This simplifies matters when, say, an engineer is assigned to a task partially completed by someone else.

There still are many professionals who are wary about using computers. Perhaps even more common is the professional who is comfortable with an IBM PC, but only when using specific software designed for his or her profession. Neither group needs to worry about learning Time$heet Professional. A series of pull-down menus has been intuitively designed but kept simple enough that almost nothing has to be memorized. Context-sensitive help screens and a bottom-row listing of all function keys and their purposes makes it possible to get into the program and use it productively with minimum effort.

Little touches that users will enjoy can be found throughout the program. For example, a built-in timer can automatically record time for a selected task. Just press the F2 key to start the timer and press F2 again to stop it. Elapsed time is displayed in the right-hand corner of the screen and is automatically assigned to the selected task.

If there is one compelling reason to use computerized time-and-expense tracking, it would be the reporting capabilities. Time$heet Professional doesn't disappoint in this, and it produces two practical reports.

The Summary Report will provide analyses of tasks from any number of perspectives. You can print summaries by client or project, billable versus unbillable time analyses and budget versus actual reports.

The Detail Report is useful for billing and preparing invoices. It shows time and amount totals for individual tasks during any period. Like the Summary Report, settings can be saved as report templates, making it easy to design report formats that can be used as often as needed.

Despite the many conveniences in Time$heet Professional, there are those who will prefer the relative ease of a manual system. If you're ready to try automating this job, though, Time$heet Professional is worth a look.

GIF illustrations for this review can be found in the Online Today Forum (GO OLTFORUM) Library 6.

*William J. Lynott is president of W.J. Lynott Associates, management consultants specializing in personal computer applications for small business. He has been a frequent contributor of* Online Today *reviews for several years.*

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# DTP Advisor

***Helps Keep Desktop Publishing Projects on Track***

Bröderbund Software
17 Paul Dr.
San Rafael, CA 94903-2101
415/492-3200
Fax: 415/499-8661

**Computers:** Apple Macintosh Plus, SE, SE/30, II, IIx or IIcx.
**Operating System:** Macintosh System 4.2 or later; HyperCard 1.2 or later (included with DTP Advisor).
**Media:** Supplied on two 3.5-inch 800K diskettes; requires two 800K drives, FDHD drive or hard disk (hard disk with 1.6MB of available storage space is recommended).
**Copy Protection:** None.
**Required Peripherals:** Monochrome or color video display.
**Other Requirements:** Minimum 1MB memory.
**Optional Items:** Macintosh-compatible printer.
**System used for test:** 5MB Macintosh IIcx with FDHD diskette drive, 40MB hard disk, Apple Extended Keyboard, AppleColor High-Resolution RGB Monitor, 256-color Macintosh II Video Card and Qume CrystalPrint Publisher laser printer; running System 6.03, Finder 6.1 and HyperCard 1.2.2.
**List Price:** $79.95

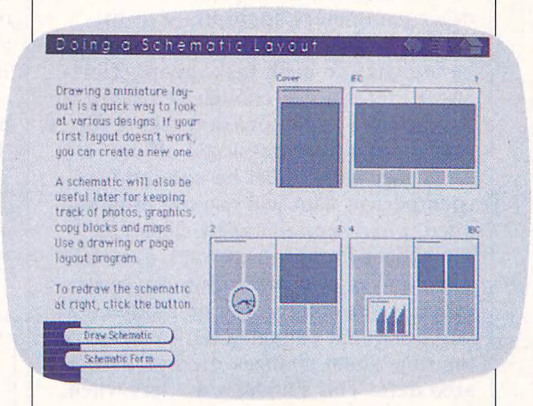
*Reviewed by Ernest E. Mau*

DTP Advisor goes beyond merely trying to educate users. It provides project-management tools useful in desktop publishing pursuits.

Developed by graphic design professionals, DTP Advisor (version 1.0) is a collection of HyperCard stacks assembled into a coherent package by a control screen that accesses educational information, a glossary, project development forms and a supplier database. The parts are well integrated and thoroughly linked, so using DTP Advisor is almost intuitive. Although it runs under HyperCard, DTP Advisor doesn't require any knowledge of HyperCard.

DTP Advisor's tutorial portion is packed with information about graphic arts and desktop publishing in general and about specific tools and techniques. For example, the tutorial not only describes different printing techniques, but it also actually shows differences expected in outputs from ordinary laser printers versus outputs from typesetting printers.

Tutorial subject matter ranges from things as general as describing letterpress ink transfers to specific step-by-step details of planning and completing desktop publishing projects. Principal subjects include designing for an audience, managing project and creative resources, graphic design and page layout, and typography and typesetting. The information is well illustrated with graphics, and clicking on graphics often triggers frame-by-frame or animated demonstration of operations such as image transfer through the rollers of an offset press.


Doing a Schematic Layout
Drawing a miniature layout is a quick way to look at various designs. If your first layout doesn't work, you can create a new one.
A schematic will also be useful later for keeping track of photos, graphics, copy blocks and maps. Use a drawing or page layout program.
To redraw the schematic at right, click the button.
Draw Schematic
Schematic Form
Cover
IFC
1
2
3
4
IBC

**Tutorials use HyperCard:** *DTP Advisor*

A glossary of more than 200 graphic arts and desktop publishing terms is just a mouse click away and provides for slow browsing, speed reading and specific searching. The user can even add or delete words as needed. Many glossary entries are tied to tutorial pages to present information beyond definitions. For example, displaying the glossary entry for "blanket" and clicking on "find in tutorial" displays a card that shows how a "blanket" fits into the ink transfer system of an offset press.

DTP Advisor also has the ability to manage customizable project development forms. These are forms used to set up a project, define tasks and objectives, schedule starting and completion dates, estimate costs or charges, assign free-lancers, specify typesetting requirements, specify printing orders and develop "schematic" or "thumbnail" sketches of various project or publication components.

Part of the form handling operation is handled by a rudimentary project manager that even includes a calendar on which working and non-working days may be designated. Enter a starting date for the project, and DTP Advisor can fill in the starting and deadline dates for each required task, whether performed concurrently or sequentially. However, this is not a full-blown project manager and does not account for such operations as resource loading. Furthermore, the output is a simple schedule form, not a GANTT or Pert chart.

Throughout forms handling operations, advice from the tutorial is a mouse click away for everything from defining project objectives through setting schedules to getting estimates. On request, DTP Advisor can give advice about printing technologies and prepress requirements for filling out a printing specifications form or on type characteristics for filling out a typography specifications form.

DTP Advisor also has a specialized database that can record, search out and retrieve information on artists, photographers, writers, printers and other resources needed to complete a project. Each category has its own data form, with space for contact information and a set of check boxes for considerations such as the film sizes used by a given photographer or the specialities of a given writer. Database records can be searched by names, by words or by the checked criteria, so it's easy to do something like locate all photographers in the database who use 4x5 cameras and do location shootings.

By tying database entries to forms, DTP advisor can help record bids from outside suppliers, compare bids from suppliers and make assignments or do hiring for a project.

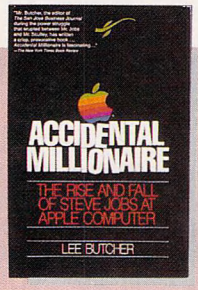
As a straightforward tutorial, DTP Advisor should appeal to both newcomers and old hands in desktop publishing. Information therein covers the needs of individuals doing little more than preparing newsletters on their own computers as well as corporate users who want help training new employees or refreshing the knowledge of older employees. But DTP Advisor's extra working functions beyond the tutorial sections are a tangible bonus, and they're surprisingly useful for a product priced as low as this one. DTP Advisor is a bargain for anyone involved in desktop publishing.

GIF illustrations for this review can be found in the Online Today Forum (GO OLTFORUM) Library 6.

*Ernest E. Mau, a full-time free-lance writer and* Online Today *reviews editor, is based in Aurora, Colo. He is the author of several books and more than 500 articles on personal and business computing products and applications.*

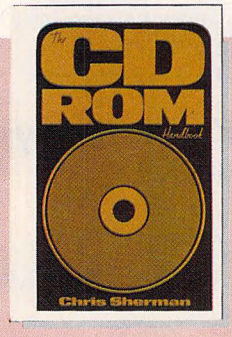
## Online Book Reviews

Following are summaries of book reviews available for reading this month in *Online Today Daily Edition*. To read the complete reviews, type GO OLT-240 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.




***Accidental Millionaire: The Rise and Fall of Steve Jobs at Apple Computer***
Lee Butcher
Paragon House, 1988
226 pages, $9.95 (softcover)

In this unauthorized biography of Steve Jobs, the co-founder of Apple Computer, Lee Butcher recounts also the inside story of how Apple was formed and introduces the personalities behind it. Reviewer Cathryn Conroy says the book is not only fascinating, but also educational for would-be entrepreneurs. *GO OLT-5200*

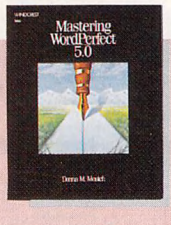



***CD-ROM Handbook***
Chris Sherman
Intertext Publications and
McGraw-Hill, 1988
510 pages, $59.95 (hardcover)

Although the book focuses on explaining the complex, technical details of CD-ROM technology, reviewer James Moran says it is devoid of technical jargon and will be readily understood by most non-experts. Software developers will find the book particularly useful. *GO OLT-5210*

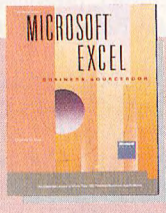
***Exploring HyperCard***
Steven Anzovin
Compute! Books, 1988
334 pages, $19.95 (softcover)

For those looking for an excellent blend of theoretical and practical information on HyperCard, reviewer Brian Monahan recommends this book. It is a solid supplement to the program's original documentation. *GO OLT-5220*



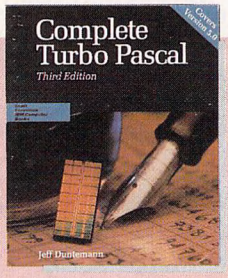

***Mastering WordPerfect 5.0***
Donna M. Mosich
Windcrest Books, 1988
437 pages, $19.95 (softcover)

In this highly structured book, each chapter focuses on a specific function of WordPerfect 5.0 from advanced macros to printing, making it an ideal reference text. Reviewer William J. Lynott praises the graphically pleasing look of the book and the author's conversational writing style. *GO OLT-5230*




***Microsoft Excel Business Sourcebook***
Charles W. Kyd
Microsoft Press, 1988
584 pages, $24.95 (softcover)

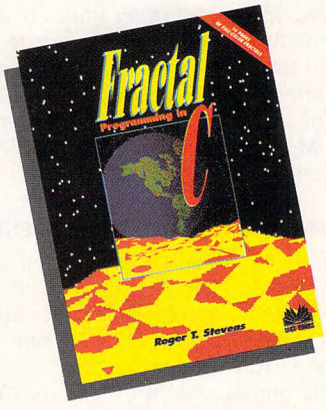
An abundance of practical business applications and ideas are presented in this book about the Windows version of Excel. Reviewer Robert Sanchez says this excellent volume, aimed at those with a basic knowledge of Excel, will help users create professional-looking spreadsheets. *GO OLT-5250*




***Complete Turbo Pascal (Third Edition)***
Jeff Duntemann
Scott Foresman, 1988
822 pages, $24.95 (softcover)

Reviewer John Edwards says this well-written, thoroughly detailed guidebook is an absolute necessity for any serious Turbo Pascal user. It is packed with in-depth tutorial and reference information that is useful to novice and experienced programmers alike.
*GO OLT-5240*

FRACTAL PROGRAMMING IN C




This comprehensive "how to" book investigates fractals, the visual representation of chaos. Plot, reproduce or create intriguing curves that have both beauty and mathematical meaning. Wiley $39.95 Book/Disk package **GO WB**

Walden*COMPUTER*Books

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# INDUSTRY WATCH

## Teleworks Plus

An Apple IIgs-dedicated communications program has been introduced by Activision Presentation Tools.

Called Teleworks Plus, the program provides users with easy access to online communication services, such as CompuServe. It incorporates the familiar, easy-to-use Apple IIgs interface with pull-down menus and the option of using a mouse or keyboard controls. The program automates many of the cumbersome communications operations, such as typing password access codes, so time spent online is maximized. Five transfer protocols, including ASCII and XMODEM, are supported.

The retail price is $99.95.

For information, contact Activision Inc., 3885 Bohannon Dr., Menlo Park, CA 94025; 415/329-0500 (voice) or 415/322-0260 (fax).

## JT Fax Pro96 Modem

The JT Fax Pro96 from Quadram combines 9600-baud facsimile and a 2400-baud Hayes-compatible on-board modem for fully integrated hardware and software communications.

The unit comes bundled with software that controls both facsimile and data communications functions. In addition to the complete range of facsimile capabilities, the software provides for file transfer, terminal emulation, scripting and other data communications features. All functions are contained in a resident, menu-driven application program.The retail price is $495.

For information, contact Quadram, One Meca Way, Norcross, GA 30093-2918; 404/923-666.

## Private Line Phone Accessory

Nady Systems has introduced the PL-1 Private Line, a telephone accessory that automatically disables all other phone extensions when one phone is activated.

The unit is ideal for business and home computer users who run multiple extensions off one phone line when one of the extensions includes a computer connected to the phone line via a modem. With the Private Line, several computers and modems can be connected to one phone line without the possibility of losing data.

Packaged two to a pack, Private Line sells for $23.95.

For information, contact Nady Systems Inc., 1145 65th St., Oakland, CA 94608; 415/652-2411.

## Five-function System For Communications

Relisys has introduced the Apple Macintosh model of the desktop personal computer facsimile transceiver.

The Tefax System Modem RA2110M combines five integrated functions: facsimile, scanner, line printer, modem and computer interface. It uses a built-in copier, scan mechanism, thermal print head and electronics to provide high-speed and high-resolution document image scanning, computer editing, printing, copying, transmission and reception of text, half-tone images and graphics. The retail price is $1,495.

For information, contact Relisys, 320 S. Milpitas Blvd., Milpitas, CA 95035; 408/945-1062 (voice) or 408/945-0587 (fax).

## Rackmount Modem

A rackmount modem that is CCITT V.32-compatible has been introduced by Multi-Tech Systems.

The MT932ER operates at speeds of 9600, 4800, 2400, 1200 and 300 baud and features MNP Classes 2, 3, 4 and 5 error correction and data compression. Features include dial-up, full-duplex synchronous or asynchronous operation for both domestic and international communications. The retail price is $1,050.

For information, contact Multi-Tech Systems, 2205 Woodale Dr., Mounds View, MN 55112; 800/328-9717 or 612/785-3500 (voice) or 612/785-9874 (fax).

## Turbo File Transfer

A micro-to-micro telecommunication program that transfers files up to seven times faster than traditional protocols has been introduced by Eidolon Technologies.

Called QuickTran II, the program is a complete turbo file transfer system that compresses and decompresses files during transmission so that a 1200-baud modem can transfer at the equivalent of 8400 baud. A 2400-baud modem reaches the equivalent of 16,800 baud.

Designed for use with the IBM PC and PS/2 series or compatibles, QuickTran II sells for $39.95. The program is needed at each end for a file transfer.

For information, contact Eidolon Technologies, PO Box 20680, Columbus Circle Station, New York, NY 10023; 212/795-7909.

## Tandy 4000 SX PC

Tandy Corp. has introduced the Tandy 4000 SX personal computer based on the versatile 16 MHz Intel 386ST microprocessor.

Features include video graphics array support and SmartDrive intelligent device electronics storage technology. In addition, it offers one 3.5-inch, 1.44MB floppy disk drive with three additional device slots, socket for an optional 16 MHz 387SX math coprocessor, four 16-bit expansion slots, 200 watt power supply, asynchronous serial port and more. Prices range from $2,599 to $3,498.

For information, contact your local Radio Shack Computer Center, GRiD Systems Business Centers and participating stores and dealers nationwide, or type GO TANDYNET on CompuServe.

## WordPerfect 5.0 Version for OS/2 Environments

WordPerfect Corp. has introduced WordPerfect 5.0 for OS/2, a special version of the popular word processor that is designed to use the multitasking capabilities and increased memory offered by the OS/2 environment.

The new program incorporates all the features of the MS-DOS version including text-integrated graphics, on-screen preview, styles and enhanced laser printing capabilities.

The retail price is $549; upgrades from WordPerfect 5.0 for MS/DOS are $75.

For information, contact WordPerfect Corp., 1555 N. Technology Way, Orem, UT 84057; 801/225-5000 (voice) or 801/222-4477 (fax); GO WORDPERFECT on CompuServe.

## Advertiser's Directory


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The Gay Politics section of the Issues Forum
**(GO ISSUES, section 17)**
and
The Gay Alliance section of the Human Sexuality Forum
**(GO HSX-100, section 4)**

## Guidelines to Requesting Information Through OLI

### Online Inquiry

Online Inquiry is *Online Today*'s electronic version of the traditional reader inquiry card. To request additional information about products or services described in *Online Today*, simply access CompuServe and type GO OLI at any prompt.

CompuServe Page OLI-1
ONLINE TODAY ADVERTISERS
ONLINE INQUIRY (OLI)
1. OLI Instructions
2. Online Today Display Ads
3. Print Edition Reviews
4. Shopper's Guide Mini-Ads

### Display Ads

GO OLI-160. Inquiries to this section will be followed by a brief description of the *Online Today* ad. To request additional printed information, simply enter your name and address at the prompts. OLI will add your User ID number and electronically forward your request to the appropriate advertiser(s). The names, addresses and User ID numbers will also be forwarded via US Mail at the end of each month.

CompuServe Page OLI-160
ONLINE TODAY ADVERTISERS/OLI
1. Sept. 1989 Advertisers
2. Aug. 1989 Advertisers
3. July 1989 Advertisers

### Editorial Articles/Reviews

At the end of each electronic version product review, you'll be asked if you wish to request further information through the Online Inquiry system. A "yes" response will let the system prompt you for your name, address and other information so that your request can be forwarded to the appropriate company. If you respond "no," the system will return you to the previous menu.

To request information about products reviewed in the print edition, GO OLI-280 and select the appropriate listing, such as September Hardware Reviews. At the next menu, select the product you're interested in. If you answer "yes" at the question prompt, the OLI system will prompt you for the necessary information.

Requests to these sections will be stored and forwarded by traditional mail once each month.

CompuServe Page OLI-280
REVIEW LISTINGS/PRINT EDITION
1. Sept. Hardware Listings
2. Sept. Software Listings
3. Sept. New Product Listings

### Shopper's Guide

GO OLI-70 to get information about *Online Today*'s mini-ad program.

To request information from Shopper's Guide advertisers, follow the instructions outlined in each ad.

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SHOPPER'S GUIDE
1. About Shopper's Guide
2. Rates and Information

***Note:** Additional requests during the same session will not require you to re-enter your name and address.

# U P D A T E

**Use IQuest SmartSCANs for $1 in September**

The IQuest SmartSCAN charge is reduced from $5 to $1 during September. IQuest SmartSCAN quickly reviews databases related to a selected topic. The resulting SmartSCAN menu lists the number of articles found in each of the scanned databases. Listed articles can be retrieved for the standard $9 search charge plus any applicable surcharges. Connect-time charges remain in effect. GO IQUEST

**Editor Answers RV Queries in Outdoor Forum Messages**

Outdoor Forum members with questions on rental, service, repair, travel or purchase of RVs can pose them to Brian Robertson, contributing editor for both *Trailer Life* and *Motorhome* magazines.

Questions on RV-related matters should be directed to Brian Robertson/CA, User ID 72717,3641, in message Section 2 of the Outdoor Forum. GO OUTDOORS

**Four New Databases on CompuServe Reference Menu**

Four new databases have been added to CompuServe's Reference menu.

Magill's Survey of Cinema contains descriptions of most major films from 1902 to the present. Included are cast and characters, awards, plot summary and critical analyses, and references to published reviews.

Dissertation Abstracts contains bibliographic references for nearly all Ph.D. dissertations published in the United States since 1861, and Masters theses since 1962. Abstracts are available for dissertations published after 1980.

Marquis Who's Who provides concise bibliographies of notable individuals living in the United States.

Books in Print lists most books currently in print at US trade publishers. It also lists books currently out of print and those slated for publication.

All of these databases carry surcharges. GO REFERENCE

**Newsbytes Computer News Service Available on CompuServe**

Newsbytes, an international computer news service previously on The Source, is now available on CompuServe. Newsbytes provides coverage of the computer industry from 11 bureaus located in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Europe, Japan, Australia and Asia. GO NEWSBYTES

**The Electronic Mall Offers Shopping Survey**

The Electronic Mall invites all members to take a free online survey on shopping. Those who complete Mall surveys will receive a free gift. News on promotions, contests and new Mall stores can be found in "This Week's Mall News." GO MALL

**Eaasy Sabre Option Tracks Lowest One-way Fare**

Eaasy Sabre's latest enhancement displays one-way flights and corresponding lowest fares on a single screen. The Lowest One-Way fare option (LOW) enables subscribers to see all available one-way flights without changing between flight and fare modules on the service. GO SABRE

**First Recommend-A-Member Winners Announced**

Winners for the first part of the Recommend-A-Member Contest, which ran Feb. 16, 1989 to June 30 1989 are:

David Sparkman, Middlesex, N.J., grand prize $500 connect-time credit.

R. Canaday, Brooklyn, N.Y.; and William C. Santos, Sacramento, Calif., (tie) first place $125 connect-time credit.

Arthur T. Gimpleson, Dover, Fla.; Ronald K. Ruward, Seattle, Wash.; James W. Harrison, Richardson, Texas; Wayne E. Ponton, Woodridge, N.J.; Lun Lee Chin, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Steven M. Hobson, Lexington, S.C.; and Joe Ruh, Rochester, N.Y. (seven-way tie), second place $15 connect-time credit.

The second contest, which began July 1, runs through Dec. 31, 1989. Third-place prizes of $25 each will be awarded to five randomly chosen winners who did not win one of the top three prizes. Member Recommendation folders and complete contest rules are available online. GO FRIEND

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The SupraModem 2400i is very easy to use. It features autoanswer and autodial (tone and pulse) for performing phone tasks, and it has a programmable-volume speaker for monitoring call progress. And the modem's programmable nonvolatile memory lets you easily create your own custom configurations.

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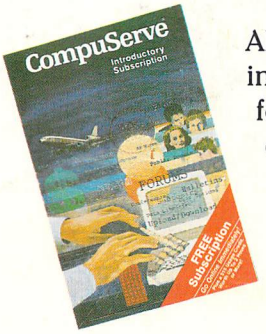


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